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ABSTRACT

This report describes how undergraduates finance their postsecondary education by presenting data from the 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study. The report discusses the characteristics of undergraduate students and where they attend school, as well as the costs of attendance, and the characteristics of the students who receive federal financial aid. The report describes the characteristics of state and institutional aid recipients as well as the average amount of aid they received from these sources, and provides a broader view of how undergraduates finance their postsecondary education by using a variety of financial resources to help meet attendance costs. Survey results indicated that: (1) about 43 percent of undergraduates received some type of financial aid; (2) the average annual cost of attendance for undergraduates attending public institutions was $8,109, $13,689 for private not-for-profit institutions, and $11,308 for private for-profit institutions; (3) the average tuition and fees for undergraduates attending public institutions was $1,322, $7,051 for private not-for-profit institutions, and $4,792 for private for-profit institutions; (4) about 29 percent of undergraduates received federal financial aid in 1989-90; (5) about 13 percent of undergraduates received state financial aid; (6) about 15 percent of undergraduates received some institutional financial aid; and (7) 16 percent of eligible dependent, and 46 percent of eligible independent students did not receive financial assistance from their parents. Appendices include a glossary and technical notes. (GLR)

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Statistical Analysis Report May 1993

National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

Financing Undergraduate Education: 1990

Chuck Byce
MPR Associates, Inc.

Carl Schmitt
Project Officer
National Center for Education Statistics

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement **NCES 93-201**

U.S. Department of Education
Richard W. Riley
Secretary

Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Emerson J. Elliott
Acting Assistant Secretary

National Center for Education Statistics
Emerson J. Elliott
Commissioner

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May 1993

Contact:
Carl Schmitt
(202) 219–1642

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Foreword

This report examines how undergraduate students finance their postsecondary education with a particular emphasis on those who receive financial aid. The report focuses on the student and institutional characteristics of those students who receive financial aid. Data are presented on the costs of attendance that students face and types and sources of financial aid that students use to meet those costs. The proportions of students who receive financial aid and the average amounts of aid received are the primary types of information presented.

Most of the data presented in this report were derived from the 1989–90 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90), a large-scale survey that contains extensive information on the educational, demographic, and financial aspects of postsecondary students and their parents. The survey is representative of both graduate and undergraduate students in all sectors of postsecondary institutions. Given the complexity of the financial aid award process and the need for a greater understanding of the way in which students finance their education, the financial aid information collected in this survey is of particular importance.

The data for most of the tables and figures in this report were produced by the NPSAS:90 Undergraduate Table Generation System (UTGS), software developed by NCES. The UTGS was designed to allow access to the NPSAS:90 data and to easily produce tables for analysis. For more information about the UTGS, see Appendix B.

Information about obtaining the NPSAS:90 data file and the NPSAS:90 UTGS is available from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Information Technology Branch, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Room 215, Capitol Place Building, Washington, DC 20208.

Paul Planchon, Associate Commissioner
National Center for Education Statistics
Office of Educational Research and
Improvement

C. Dennis Carroll, Chief
Longitudinal Studies Branch
National Center for
Education Statistics
Office of Educational
Research and Improvement

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Highlights

This report describes how undergraduates finance their postsecondary education. In particular, the report focuses on those students who receive financial aid and how they use the aid to meet the costs of attendance. Some of the more important findings are the following:

Postsecondary Enrollments

- There were about 18.6 million students enrolled in postsecondary education in 1989–90: 16.3 million undergraduates, 2 million graduate students, and about 300,000 first-professional students.
- Approximately 52 percent of undergraduates were financially independent of their parents for financial aid purposes.
- About 56 percent of undergraduates attended postsecondary education full time: the rest were approximately equally divided between half time (21 percent) and less than half time (23 percent).
- Three-quarters (76 percent) of undergraduates attended public institutions, 16 percent attended private not-for-profit institutions, and about 9 percent attended private for-profit institutions.

Financial Aid Recipients

- About 43 percent of undergraduates received some type of financial aid, 36 percent received grants, and 19 percent received loans.
- Recipients of financial aid received an average of $3,606. The average amount of grant aid was $2,257 and the average amount of loan aid was $2,799.
- Seventy-four percent of dependent students with a family income less than $10,000 received financial aid, compared with 15 percent of those with a family income of $100,000 or more.

Costs of Attendance

- The average annual total cost of attendance for undergraduates attending public institutions was $8,109, the average cost for those attending private not-for-profit institutions was $13,689, and for those at private for-profit institutions, it was $11,308.
- The average tuition and fees for undergraduates attending public institutions was $1,322, compared with $7,051 at private not-for-profit institutions, and $4,792 at private for-profit institutions.

Federal Financial Aid

- About 29 percent of undergraduates received federal financial aid in 1989–90. Twenty-one percent received federal grants, 18 percent federal loans, and 5 percent received federal work-study.

- About 71 percent of undergraduates met the eligibility requirements for federal financial aid (i.e., attended at least half time and were citizens or eligible noncitizens). Thirty-eight percent of eligible undergraduates received aid.

- Almost 81 percent of undergraduates who were eligible to receive federal financial aid and attended private for-profit institutions received some type of federal aid. Almost one-half of eligible students at private not-for-profit institutions received federal aid (49 percent), and about 29 percent of eligible students at public institutions received federal financial aid.

- Over 71 percent of eligible undergraduates who attended less-than-2-year institutions received federal aid, about 29 percent of students at 2- to 3-year institutions, 42 percent of those at 4-year non-doctoral institutions, and 35 percent of those at 4-year doctoral institutions received federal aid.

- Undergraduate recipients of federal aid received, on average, $3,113. They received an average of $1,562 in federal grant aid, $2,647 in federal loan aid, and $1,252 in federal work-study.

- Recipients who attended public institutions received an average of $2,585 in federal aid, while students who attended private not-for-profit and private for-profit institutions received an average of approximately $3,800 in federal aid.

State Financial Aid

- About 13 percent of undergraduates received state financial aid. On average, they received $1,340 in total state aid: $1,203 in state grant aid, and $2,351 in state loan aid.

- Twenty-eight percent of eligible (for federal aid) undergraduates who attended private not-for-profit institutions received some state aid. About 15 percent of those at public institutions and about 9 percent of those at private for-profit institutions received state aid.

- Recipients of state aid at public institutions received an average of $1,308 in state financial aid, and those who attended both types of private institutions received an average of about $1,900 in state aid

Institutional Financial Aid

- About 15 percent of undergraduates received some institutional financial aid. They received, on average, $2,072 in total institutional aid: $2,059 in institutional grant aid, and $1,315 in institutional loan aid.

- Forty-two percent of eligible (for federal aid) undergraduates who attended private not-for-profit institutions received some form of institutional aid. About 20 percent of those at private for-profit institutions received institutional aid as did 12 percent of those at public institutions.

- Students at private not-for-profit institutions received an average of $3,170 in institutional aid while those at private for-profit institutions received an average of $1,357 and those at public institutions received $1,284.

Sources of Financial Support

- Sixteen percent of eligible dependent students and 46 percent of eligible independent students did not receive any financial assistance from their parents. Seventeen percent of dependent students and 34 percent of independent students who received financial aid received no financial assistance from their parents for their postsecondary education.

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Chapter 1
Introduction and Overview

The ways in which students pay for their postsecondary education combine the financial resources of the student, the student's parents, and financial aid awarded at the institution. As costs increase, more and more students are applying and receiving financial aid to help them meet those costs. In fact, in 1989-90, about 43 percent of undergraduates received some kind of financial aid,[1] and that year the aid awarded to all postsecondary students totaled $26.8 billion.[2] There are several sources of financial aid including the federal, state, and local governments, postsecondary institutions, employers, and community organizations. Although the majority[3] of financial aid comes from the federal government, which provides about 77 percent of the total,[4] states provide 6 percent, and institutions, employers, and other sources supply the other 17 percent.

Each source of financial aid awards many kinds of aid including grants, work-study, and loans. For example, there are programs in several agencies in the federal government that award financial aid including the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Defense, and Education. The programs in which most of the federal financial aid is awarded were authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, and are administered by the Department of Education.

Most financial aid is awarded based upon the financial need of the student. That is, if the costs of attendance exceed the financial resources available to the student and family, then the student has financial need and can be awarded aid. Other financial aid is awarded based upon merit or a combination of need and merit.

The process of awarding financial aid is complex. It begins when the student applies to the institution for financial aid. In most cases, the financial aid administrator at the institution then determines who receives aid and how much will be awarded. Based upon the student's financial need, the administrator constructs a package of different financial programs that are awarded to the student.

NPSAS:90 Data

The data used in this report are drawn from the 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90), which surveyed a sample of approximately 70,000 students attending 1,535 postsecondary institutions. This sample represents the total undergraduate and graduate postsecondary student population.[5] Data for the survey were collected from students, institutions, and a sample of the students' parents on enrollment characteristics, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, costs of attendance, and the sources and types of financial aid that students received, if any.

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[1] National Center for Education Statistics, *National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: Estimates of Student Financial Aid, 1989-90* (discussion draft, September, 1991), table 1.

[2] Washington Office of the College Board, *Trends in Student Aid: 1981 to 1991* (New York: College Entrance Examination Board, 1991) 1.

[3] State student aid funds are different from the direct subsidies that states provide to public institutions. While the direct monies can play a similar role to student aid by reducing tuition costs, the funds go directly to the institution and are not earmarked specifically for student aid purposes.

[4] Ibid., 1.

For this report, the data collected on costs and how the students and their families met them, are of the most interest. Detailed information was gathered from all students on the costs of attending postsecondary institutions. Additional information was collected from institutions on the budgets that institutions used as measures of costs, from the financial aid application on the students' and families' financial situation, and from institutions, students, and parents on the sources and types of financial aid awarded to students.

Summary of Findings

This report, the second in a series of reports on undergraduate financing using the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) data (the first one used the 1987 NPSAS),[6] examines how undergraduate students financed their postsecondary education.[7] The purpose of this report is to present data from the 1990 NPSAS survey. Although both reports have a similar format, the data contained in them are not comparable, because the design of the samples in the two surveys is different. The earlier NPSAS surveyed a sample of students from the fall term and therefore presents data only on those students who were enrolled in that term, while the 1990 NPSAS provides information about students who were enrolled throughout the academic year. To the extent that students who are enrolled in the fall term are different from those enrolled during the rest of the year, the results from the surveys will differ.[8]

Undergraduate students are very diverse in terms of their educational and demographic characteristics. Chapter 2 discusses the variety in the characteristics of undergraduate students and where they attend school. Almost 8 percent of undergraduates attended less-than-2-year institutions, 46 percent attended 2- to 3-year institutions, about 24 percent attended 4-year doctoral-granting institutions, and about 23 percent attended other 4-year institutions. The most important student characteristics in terms of financing postsecondary education are dependency status, attendance status, and citizenship. Dependency status is important in the determination of financial need, upon which the award of most financial aid is based. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the amount of financial resources available to the student for educational purposes. If a student is dependent, the financial resources of the student's parents are included in the calculation, but if the student is independent, the parents' resources are not included in the calculation. Two of the eligibility requirements for receiving federal financial aid are based on attendance status and citizenship. Students must be either U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens and be attending at least one-half time to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.

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[5] U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Methodology Report for the 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study*, Contractor Report, NCES 92-080, May 1992.

[6] Roslyn Korb, *Undergraduate Financing of Postsecondary Education: A Report on the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study* (Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1988), CS 88-239.

[7] A companion report, *Graduate and First-Professional Student Financing*, is forthcoming.

[8] In addition, the NPSAS:90 sample design included institutions in Puerto Rico. The NPSAS:87 sample was drawn only from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. See *Methodology Report for the 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study*, NCES 92-080, May 1992.

Chapter 3 discusses the costs of attendance that students face. Generally, attending a public institution costs less than either a private not-for-profit or a proprietary institution. For example, the average total attendance cost at a public institution for undergraduates eligible to receive financial aid was $8,109, compared with attendance costs of $13,689 at private not-for-profit and $11,308 at proprietary institutions. Financial aid is awarded in part on the cost of attendance. The cost of attendance that institutions use when they award aid is more commonly based on an average budget than on actual costs. In fact, institutions may use different budgets for different financial aid programs. For example, most institutions use the Congressional Methodology budget to award federal financial aid, although for the federal Pell program, institutions use the Pell budget in the calculation of need for financial aid.

The characteristics of the students who received federal financial aid are discussed in chapter 4. About 29 percent of all undergraduates received federal financial aid. Of all undergraduates who satisfied federal aid requirements, about 38 percent received, on average, about $3,113 in federal aid. Of those who received federal aid, most received grants, with about 28 percent of eligible undergraduates, followed by loans with 24 percent. Federal loan aid had the highest average amount with $2,647.

Federal financial aid is awarded to eligible students based upon the financial need of the student, defined as the difference between the costs of attendance and the amount of financial resources available to the student. As a result, the proportions of students who received federal aid varied by institutional and student characteristics. Twenty-nine percent of eligible students attending public institutions, about 49 percent at private not-for-profit institutions and almost 81 percent at proprietary institutions received federal financial aid. The average amounts of federal aid received by students at these institutions also reflect the differences in the costs of attendance. For example, students at public institutions received an average of $2,585 in federal aid, students attending private not-for-profit institutions received an average of $3,772, and students attending proprietary institutions received an average of $3,758 in federal aid.

States and institutions are two other important sources of financial aid to undergraduates. Chapter 5 describes the characteristics of state and institutional aid recipients as well as the average amount of aid they received from these sources. About 13 percent of all undergraduates received state aid and 15 percent received institutional aid. Because the requirements for receiving state and institutional aid are largely the same as for federal aid, the characteristics of the recipients are similar to those students receiving federal aid. The average amounts of state and institutional aid are less than those for federal aid. On average, undergraduates received $1,340 in state aid and $2,072 in institutional aid. Grants were the largest source of state and institutional aid, with students receiving an average grant of $1,203 of state aid and $2,059 of institutional aid.

Chapter 6 takes a broader view of how undergraduates finance their postsecondary education. Students use a variety of financial sources to help them meet the costs of attendance. The parents of dependent students are expected to contribute to their child's educational costs, while independent students' parents are not. However, many dependent students finance their own education and some independent students do receive financial support from their parents. Sixteen percent of dependent undergraduates eligible to receive financial aid did not receive parental financial support or student financial aid while 63 percent of eligible dependent students received some financial support from their parents. Almost 46 percent of eligible independent students (and their spouses) financed their own education and about 15 percent of independent students received financial help from their parents. The average amount of financial support varied by the type of institution students attended, as well as family and student income.

Chapter 2
Postsecondary Enrollments

There were approximately 18.6 million students enrolled in postsecondary education in the United States in the 1989–90 academic year. Of these, the vast majority, 16.3 million, were undergraduates. In addition, there were 2 million graduate students and 300,000 first-professional students.

As a prelude to examining the cost and financing of undergraduate education, this chapter describes postsecondary enrollments, focusing on the institutional and student characteristics that are closely related to the eligibility and need for financial aid. At the institutional level, these include level and control, and at the student level, financial dependency status, attendance status, citizenship, income, and residence. Because student access to postsecondary education is an important national issue, demographic characteristics are also discussed in this chapter.

The first section profiles all postsecondary students, while the second looks more closely at the financial aid-related characteristics of undergraduate students and how they are interrelated. The third section focuses on institutions, examining how their student populations differ with respect to financial aid-related characteristics. The final section presents a preview of subsequent chapters by briefly describing the characteristics of students who received financial aid.

Profile of Postsecondary Students

In the aggregate, undergraduate and graduate/first-professional students differ in important ways in terms of the characteristics that are related to eligibility and need for financial aid. The profile that follows provides an overall description of each population separately, and also points out important differences.[9]

Types of Institutions Attended

The cost of obtaining a postsecondary certificate or degree (and thus the need for financial aid) is related to the type of institution attended and the length of time the student is enrolled. Private institutions tend to be more costly to the student than public ones, for example, and it normally costs more to earn a bachelor's degree than a 1-year vocational certificate.[10]

Postsecondary students in 1989–90 attended a variety of types of institutions. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, the majority of students attended public institutions. The proportion was particularly high at the undergraduate level, where 76 percent of students were enrolled in public institutions, compared with 62 percent at the graduate/first-professional level (table 2.1). For undergraduate students, the other options were private not-for-profit institutions (selected by 16 percent) and proprietary institutions (selected by 9 percent) (figure 2.1). Almost all graduate/first-professional students who did not attend public institutions attended private not-for-profit institutions (38 percent). Less than 1 percent were enrolled in proprietary institutions; very few institutions of this type offer postbaccalaureate programs.

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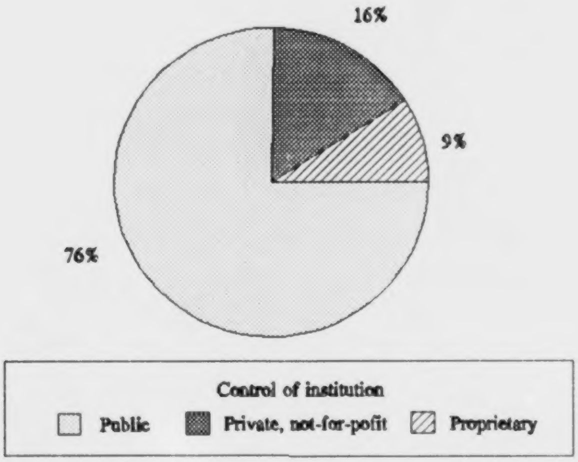
[9] Income is not discussed until the next section (where the interrelationship of financial aid-related characteristics is considered), because income is only meaningful when examined in conjunction with dependency status.

[10] The nature of the relationship between cost and type of institution is examined in detail in chapter 3.

Figure 2.1—Percentage distribution of undergraduates enrolled in postsecondary education, by control of institution: AY 1989-90



NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 2.1—Percentage of students by level of enrollment, by institutional and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Undergraduate	Graduate/1st Professional
Total	100.0	100.0
Attendance status		
Full-time	56.1	41.5
At least half-time	21.0	25.5
Less than half-time	22.8	32.9
Citizenship		
U.S. citizen	95.0	90.9
Eligible noncitizen	3.6	3.3
Other	1.4	5.8
Control of institution		
Public	75.7	62.1
Private not-for-profit	15.8	37.6
Private for-profit	8.6	0.3
Dependency status		
Dependent	47.9	3.8
Independent	52.1	96.2
Gender		
Male	44.6	44.6
Female	55.4	55.4
Level of institution		
Less-than-2-year	7.5	—
2- to 3-year	45.5	—
4-year non-doctoral	23.5	27.0
4-year doctoral	23.4	73.0
Level/degree program		
First year	50.4	—
Second year	24.0	—
Third year	11.5	—
Fourth year	12.6	—
Fifth year/not graduate	1.5	—
Master's degree	—	58.1
Doctoral degree	—	11.0
First-professional	—	13.1
Other graduate program	—	17.9

Table 2.1—Percentage of students by level of enrollment, by institutional and student characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Undergraduate	Graduate/1st Professional
Race–ethnicity		
Native American	0.8	0.4
Asian	4.7	8.3
Black, non-Hispanic	10.2	5.2
Hispanic	8.4	4.4
White, non-Hispanic	75.9	81.8
Residence		
On campus	15.0	7.7
Off campus	56.7	84.0
With parents	28.3	8.3
Age as of 12/31/89		
16–23 years	61.6	19.9
24–29 years	12.8	28.7
30–39 years	15.6	31.1
40 years or older	10.0	20.4

NOTE: Percentages are based on column totals. Due to rounding, some columns may not add to 100 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Among undergraduates, 8 percent enrolled in less-than-2-year institutions, and 46 percent enrolled in 2- to 3-year institutions. The rest of the undergraduates attended 4-year institutions, roughly equally divided between doctoral-granting (23 percent) and other 4-year institutions (24 percent) (figure 2.2).[11] Graduate/first-professional students were concentrated in doctoral-granting 4-year institutions (73 percent), with the rest enrolling in other 4-year institutions.

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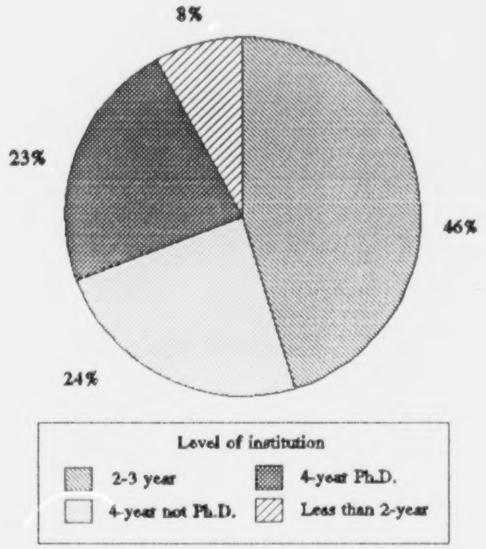
[11] Doctoral-granting institutions were defined as those that conferred at least one doctoral or first-professional degree, while non-doctoral-granting institutions do not grant either doctoral or first-professional degrees. See Appendix A for complete definitions of all institutional types.

Figure 2.2—Percentage distribution of undergraduates enrolled in postsecondary education, by level of institution: AY 1989-90



NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

First-year students made up the largest proportional share of the undergraduate population (50 percent), followed by second-year students, with 24 percent, and then third- and fourth-year students, who made up roughly equal shares (12 percent and 13 percent, respectively). This pattern reflects the fact that many undergraduate programs are only 1 or 2 years in duration and that some students leave without completing their programs.

At the graduate level, about 58 percent of the students were enrolled in master's degree programs. Approximately equal percentages were enrolled in doctoral and first-professional programs (11 percent and 13 percent, respectively). A slightly larger proportion of graduate/first-professional students (18 percent) were enrolled in other graduate programs.

Financial Dependency Status

Whether a student is considered financially dependent or independent determines whose financial resources are included in the calculation of need. Parents' income and assets are considered for financially dependent students, but only the student's and spouse's income and assets for independent ones. According to federal regulations governing the distribution of student financial aid, a student is dependent unless he or she meets one of the criteria for independence. To be considered financially independent, the student must

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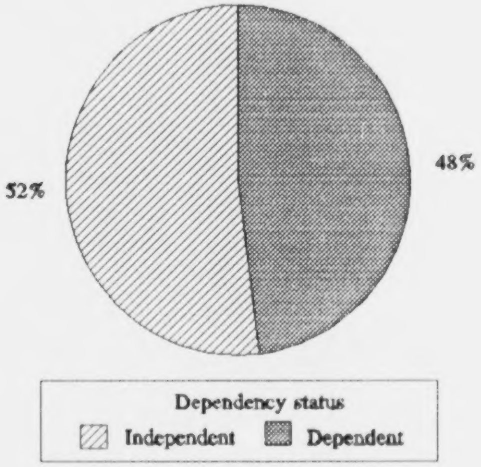
- be 24 years old by December 31 of the academic year;
- be a veteran;
- be a ward of the court or have both parents dead;
- have legal dependents other than a spouse;
- be married or a graduate student and not be claimed as a tax exemption for the calendar year coinciding with the beginning of the academic year; or
- be a single undergraduate student, not be claimed as a tax exemption for the 2 years previous to the beginning of the academic year, and be financially independent (have at least $4,000 in financial resources).

Primarily because undergraduates as a group were younger than graduate/first-professional students, they were much less likely than graduate or first-professional students to be considered financially independent. Approximately one-half (52 percent) of all undergraduates were financially independent in 1989-90 (figure 2.3), whereas almost all (96 percent) graduate/first-professional students were in this category. All but 20 percent would have qualified by age alone; the rest met one of the other requirements.

Figure 2.3—Percentage distribution of undergraduates, by dependency status: AY 1989-90



NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90)

Attendance Status

A student's attendance status affects both eligibility and need for financial aid. Eligibility for many financial aid programs (and all federal ones) requires at least half-time enrollment, while some programs require full-time enrollment. Students who enroll less than full time not only typically pay lower tuition and fees, but also have more time to work, thereby lessening their need for financial aid.

Both the undergraduate and graduate/first-professional populations had a mixture of full- and part-time students. Slightly more than one-half of the undergraduates were full time (56 percent). The rest were approximately equally divided between half time (21 percent) and less than half time (23 percent). Graduate/first-professional students were less likely than undergraduates to be full time (42 percent) and were more likely to be less than half time (33 percent).

Citizenship Status

Foreign students who do not intend to remain in the United States after they complete their education are not eligible for federal financial aid. More graduate/first-professional students (6 percent) than undergraduates (1 percent) were in this category.

Residence

Where a student lives has no bearing on eligibility for financial aid, but it can affect the cost of attending and thus student's need for financial aid. Students who can live at home with their parents often have much lower expenses for food and housing than do students who live in campus housing or on their own. Among undergraduates, 57 percent lived off campus, not with their parents. Another 28 percent lived at home with their parents, and 15 percent lived in campus housing. Graduate/first-professional students were much less likely than undergraduates to live with their parents (8 percent) or in campus housing (8 percent).

Student Demographic Characteristics

Although federal student financial aid is awarded on a nondiscriminatory basis, profiling the demographic characteristics of students provides an indication of the access of various groups to postsecondary education and therefore to these programs. At both undergraduate and graduate/first-professional levels, a greater percentage of the students were female (55 percent) than male (45 percent).

Students at both levels were predominantly white. Approximately three-quarters (76 percent) of all undergraduates and an even greater proportion (82 percent) of graduate/first-professional students were white. Undergraduates were more likely than graduate/first-professional students to be black or Hispanic. For example, 10 percent of all undergraduates were black, compared with 5 percent of graduate/first-professionals; and 8 percent were Hispanic, compared with 4 percent of graduate/first-professionals. On the other hand, undergraduates were less likely than graduate/first-professional students to be Asian (5 percent compared with 8 percent).

This profile shows considerable variation in enrollment patterns and personal characteristics between undergraduates and graduate/first-professional students, suggesting that students at each level should be examined separately when considering issues related to the cost and financing of postsecondary education. The rest of this report deals only with undergraduates. A separate report describes the costs and financing of graduate and first-professional education.[12]

Financial Aid-Related Characteristics of Undergraduates

The previous section examined postsecondary students in terms of the characteristics that are related to the eligibility and need for financial aid, but considered only one characteristic at a time. It described how many students were financially dependent, how many were full time, and so on. This section takes a more detailed look at the financial aid-related characteristics (this time considering undergraduates only), and examines the interrelationship of these characteristics. It describes, for example, not only what percentage of all students were financially dependent, but also how that percentage varied with age.

Financial Dependency Status

Table 2.1 shows that, overall, 48 percent of undergraduates were financially dependent. However, financial dependency is related primarily to age (all students 24 years or older by December 31 of the academic year are by definition independent). In 1989–90, 79 percent of undergraduate students between 16 and 24 years old were dependent (table 2.2). Thus, among younger students, the rate of financial dependency was much higher than that for older students.

Most financially dependent undergraduates (76 percent) were enrolled full time (table 2.2). A much smaller percentage were enrolled part time, but at least half time (15 percent), and an even smaller percentage were enrolled less than half time (9 percent). Forty-three percent of dependent undergraduates lived with their parents. Of the rest, equal percentages lived in campus housing or off campus, but not with their parents.

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[12] A companion report, *Graduate and First-Professional Student Financing*, is forthcoming.

Table 2.2—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by dependency status, atttendance status, and residence, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Dependency status		Attendance status			Residence		
	Dependent	Independent	Full-time	At least half-time	Less than half-time	On campus	Off campus	With parent
Total	47.9	52.1	56.1	21.0	22.8	15.0	56.7	28.3
Attendance status								
Full-time	65.5	34.5	(*)	(*)	(*)	25.8	45.0	29.2
At least half-time	34.7	65.3	(*)	(*)	(*)	3.0	64.3	32.7
Less than half-time	19.1	80.9	(*)	(*)	(*)	1.1	77.1	21.8
Citizenship								
U.S. citizen	48.1	51.9	56.2	20.9	23.0	15.3	56.5	28.2
Eligible noncitizen	40.7	59.3	60.4	22.7	16.9	6.7	56.1	37.3
Other	51.9	48.1	60.7	21.6	17.8	20.2	59.7	20.2
Control of institution								
Public	46.8	53.2	49.1	23.7	27.2	11.1	59.1	29.8
Private not-for-profit	63.5	36.5	76.6	12.4	11.0	40.3	40.7	19.1
Private for-profit	28.5	71.6	83.0	12.6	4.5	3.2	64.6	32.2
Dependency status								
Dependent	(*)	(*)	75.9	15.1	9.0	28.5	28.6	42.9
Independent	(*)	(*)	37.6	26.7	35.8	2.7	82.4	14.9
Gender								
Male	52.6	47.4	58.0	20.4	21.6	16.8	53.4	29.9
Female	45.4	54.6	54.1	21.7	24.2	14.2	58.5	27.3
Dependent student income								
Less than $10,000	(*)	(*)	77.3	13.3	9.4	26.2	30.8	43.1
$10,000-19,999	(*)	(*)	73.2	17.1	9.7	22.3	26.8	50.9
$20,000-29,999	(*)	(*)	75.5	15.8	8.7	25.6	26.1	48.3
$30,000-39,999	(*)	(*)	75.0	15.0	10.0	27.1	27.7	45.2
$40,000-49,999	(*)	(*)	77.4	14.2	8.4	29.7	26.3	44.0
$50,000-59,999	(*)	(*)	76.9	16.2	6.9	31.6	25.8	42.7
$60,000-69,999	(*)	(*)	78.1	14.0	8.0	29.6	32.2	38.2
$70,000-79,999	(*)	(*)	76.2	14.0	9.7	34.9	27.6	37.4
$80,000-99,999	(*)	(*)	74.8	16.3	8.9	34.9	34.5	30.7
$100,000 or more	(*)	(*)	74.8	15.0	10.2	35.6	36.4	28.0
Independent student income								
Less than $5,000	(*)	(*)	64.6	20.8	14.7	6.4	70.4	23.2
$5,000-9,999	(*)	(*)	54.7	24.2	21.0	4.2	71.1	24.6
$10,000-19,999	(*)	(*)	35.0	30.8	34.2	1.7	80.3	18.0
$20,000-29,999	(*)	(*)	24.3	28.3	47.5	1.2	89.6	9.2
$30,000-49,999	(*)	(*)	17.9	26.8	55.4	0.8	96.1	3.2
$50,000 or more	(*)	(*)	15.8	29.1	55.1	1.5	95.9	2.7

Table 2.2—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by dependency status, attendance status, and residence, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90—Continued

	Dependency status		Attendance status			Residence		
	Dependent	Independent	Full-time	At least half-time	Less than half-time	On campus	Off campus	With parent
Institution level and control								
Public								
Less-than-2-year	26.4	73.6	59.2	23.0	17.8	1.9	68.4	29.6
2- to 3-year	34.4	65.6	29.8	29.3	40.9	1.4	64.1	34.6
4-year non-doctoral	59.0	41.0	69.2	18.4	12.4	21.6	50.0	28.4
4-year doctoral	67.5	32.5	76.0	15.3	8.8	26.1	54.1	19.9
Private not-for-profit								
Less-than-2 year	13.5	86.6	91.0	8.8	0.2	0.9	75.9	23.2
2- to 3-year	54.9	45.1	71.4	14.0	14.6	27.6	43.0	29.4
4-year non-doctoral	61.9	38.1	73.1	14.2	12.7	42.5	39.5	18.1
4-year doctoral	72.4	27.7	82.9	9.3	7.9	42.9	39.2	18.0
Private for-profit								
Less-than-2-year	24.0	76.0	83.8	12.3	4.0	1.4	67.4	31.3
2 year or more	37.0	63.0	81.4	13.2	5.4	6.8	59.2	34.0
Level of institution								
Less-than-2-year	23.9	76.1	79.6	14.1	6.4	1.5	68.1	30.5
2- to 3-year	34.9	65.1	33.4	28.1	38.4	2.2	63.3	34.5
4-year non-doctoral	60.1	39.9	71.0	16.7	12.4	29.5	46.1	24.5
4-year doctoral	68.5	31.5	77.5	14.0	8.6	29.8	50.8	19.5
Level of undergraduate class								
First year	45.7	54.3	50.6	21.9	27.5	13.5	53.9	32.6
Second year	49.0	51.0	55.4	22.7	21.9	16.1	54.8	29.1
Third year	57.8	42.2	69.4	16.8	13.8	20.7	58.9	20.4
Fourth year	48.5	51.5	69.3	18.5	12.3	14.7	66.9	18.4
Fifth year/not graduate	22.1	77.9	38.1	20.4	41.6	6.8	77.3	15.9
Race–ethnicity								
Native American	44.7	55.3	53.9	23.7	22.4	11.9	62.3	25.9
Asian	55.3	44.8	57.4	19.1	23.6	13.2	50.7	36.0
Black, non-Hispanic	39.0	61.1	59.0	22.7	18.3	15.3	55.9	28.8
Hispanic	46.9	53.1	55.7	24.7	19.7	7.3	51.1	41.7
White, non-Hispanic	48.8	51.3	55.8	20.5	23.7	16.0	57.7	26.3
Residence								
On campus	90.7	9.3	94.3	4.1	1.6	(*)	(*)	(*)
Off campus	24.2	75.8	44.8	24.0	31.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
With parents	72.5	27.5	58.0	24.4	17.0	(*)	(*)	(*)
Age as of 12/31/89								
16–24	78.7	21.3	71.5	17.2	11.3	23.9	35.7	40.3
25–29	(†)	100.0	37.4	28.8	33.8	2.4	79.3	18.4
30–39	(†)	100.0	28.6	28.9	42.5	1.3	93.0	5.8
40 or more	(†)	100.0	21.9	24.0	54.1	0.9	96.1	3.0

*The same variable is used as both column and row.

†Students over the age of 24 are independent by definition.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Undergraduates who were financially independent were about half as likely as those who were financially dependent to be enrolled full time (38 percent compared with 76 percent). More than one-third (36 percent) of independent undergraduates were enrolled less than half time, and therefore would not have been eligible for most financial aid. The great majority (82 percent) lived off campus, not with their parents. They were more likely than financially dependent students to be black (12 percent compared with 8 percent); and to be female (59 percent compared with 52 percent) (table 2.3).

Table 2.3—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by race–ethnicity, gender, and citizenship, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Race–ethnicity					Gender		Citizenship		
	Native American	Asian	Black,non-Hispanic	Hispanic	White,non-Hispanic	Male	Female	U.S. citizen	Eligible non-citizn	Other
Total	0.8	4.7	10.2	8.4	75.9	44.6	55.4	95.0	3.6	1.4
Attendance status										
Full-time	0.7	4.8	10.6	8.1	75.8	46.2	53.8	94.7	3.9	1.5
At least half-time	0.8	4.2	10.8	9.6	74.5	42.9	57.1	94.7	3.9	1.4
Less than half-time	0.7	4.8	8.0	7.1	79.4	41.7	58.3	96.2	2.7	1.1
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	0.8	3.0	10.1	7.4	78.8	44.2	55.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
Eligible noncitizen	0.3	34.3	12.4	33.2	19.8	51.6	48.4	(*)	(*)	(*)
Other	0.3	41.3	9.7	16.6	32.2	54.8	45.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
Control of institution										
Public	0.8	5.0	9.2	7.6	77.4	45.0	55.0	95.3	3.4	1.3
Private not-for-profit	0.5	4.0	7.8	8.8	78.9	45.7	54.3	94.8	2.8	2.4
Private for-profit	1.0	2.9	23.7	15.1	57.3	38.4	61.6	92.4	7.1	0.5
Dependency status										
Dependent	0.7	5.4	8.3	8.2	77.3	48.3	51.8	95.4	3.1	1.5
Independent	0.8	4.0	11.9	8.6	74.7	41.2	58.8	94.6	4.1	1.3
Gender										
Male	0.9	5.5	8.0	8.5	77.2	(*)	(*)	94.3	4.0	1.7
Female	0.7	4.1	11.1	7.7	76.5	(*)	(*)	95.9	3.0	1.1
Dependent student income										
Less than $10,000	0.9	8.7	19.7	15.8	54.9	43.1	56.9	90.2	7.5	2.3
$10,000–19,999	0.9	6.9	13.3	14.7	64.1	46.4	53.6	92.2	5.2	1.9
$20,000–29,999	1.0	5.8	9.2	10.0	74.0	45.8	54.2	95.1	3.2	1.7
$30,000–39,999	0.8	4.2	6.6	7.2	81.2	48.1	51.9	96.0	2.8	1.2
$40,000–49,999	0.8	4.2	5.2	5.2	84.5	49.7	50.3	98.3	1.1	0.6
$50,000–59,999	0.6	3.5	5.5	3.9	86.5	50.2	49.8	97.8	1.0	1.2
$60,000–69,999	0.4	5.3	4.4	4.6	85.4	50.6	49.4	96.7	1.9	1.4
$70,000–79,999	0.3	3.4	3.0	3.2	90.1	47.9	52.1	99.2	0.3	0.6
$80,000–99,999	0.1	5.4	2.8	4.1	87.5	53.2	46.8	96.3	1.9	1.8
$100,000 or more	0.3	5.5	2.4	4.9	86.9	54.3	45.7	96.3	1.5	2.2
Independent student income										
Less than $5,000	1.1	5.5	18.1	11.9	63.5	40.3	59.8	91.7	6.5	1.8
$5,000–9,999	0.7	3.9	14.0	11.0	70.4	43.6	56.4	92.5	5.8	1.7
$10,000–19,999	1.0	3.5	12.8	8.8	74.0	43.1	56.9	94.8	4.2	1.0
$20,000–29,999	0.7	3.7	10.3	7.4	77.9	41.9	58.1	96.6	2.5	0.9
$30,000–49,999	0.8	4.0	5.5	5.5	84.2	38.1	61.9	96.6	2.2	1.2
$50,000 or more	0.5	3.3	7.8	3.8	84.6	36.8	63.2	96.4	2.3	1.2

Table 2.3—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by race–ethnicity, gender, and citizenship, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Race–ethnicity					Gender		Citizenship		
	Native American	Asian	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Male	Female	U.S. citizen	Eligible non-citizn	Other
Institution level and control										
Public										
Less-than-2-year	0.4	0.8	12.8	5.6	80.4	52.7	47.3	95.2	3.6	1.2
2- to 3-year	1.0	5.3	9.6	8.8	75.3	43.3	56.7	94.7	4.1	1.2
4-year non-doctoral	0.5	5.1	9.5	6.4	78.5	44.5	55.5	95.4	3.3	1.4
4-year doctoral	0.6	4.7	7.7	6.0	81.1	48.4	51.6	96.7	1.9	1.4
Private not-for-profit										
Less-than-2-year	0.3	3.8	18.6	39.3	38.0	47.3	52.8	72.6	23.7	3.8
2- to 3-year	0.4	1.6	9.4	7.9	80.7	38.8	61.2	95.8	1.2	2.9
4-year non-doctoral	0.6	2.7	7.4	7.7	81.6	44.1	55.9	96.6	1.6	1.8
4-year doctoral	0.5	6.9	7.0	8.4	77.2	50.0	50.0	93.3	3.5	3.2
Private for-profit										
Less-than-2-year	1.2	3.0	26.0	18.3	51.5	37.0	63.0	90.2	9.3	0.5
2-year or more	0.8	2.8	19.2	8.8	68.5	40.6	59.4	96.7	2.8	0.5
Level of institution										
Less-than-2-year	1.0	2.6	23.1	17.2	56.2	41.1	58.9	90.1	9.1	0.9
2- to 3-year	1.0	5.1	10.1	8.8	75.1	42.9	57.1	94.8	4.0	1.2
4-year non-doctoral	0.5	4.1	9.0	6.9	79.5	44.7	55.3	95.9	2.6	1.5
4-year doctoral	0.6	5.2	7.5	6.5	80.2	48.7	51.3	96.0	2.2	1.8
Race–ethnicity										
Native American	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	52.0	48.0	98.3	1.2	0.5
Asian	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	51.9	48.1	60.8	26.8	12.4
Black, non-Hispanic	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	36.7	63.3	94.2	4.4	1.3
Hispanic	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	46.9	53.1	83.0	14.3	2.8
White, non-Hispanic	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	44.8	55.2	98.5	0.9	0.6
Residence										
On campus	0.6	4.1	10.4	4.1	80.8	48.7	51.3	96.5	1.6	1.9
Off campus	0.9	4.2	10.1	7.6	77.3	42.3	57.7	94.9	3.6	1.5
With parents	0.7	6.0	10.4	12.4	70.5	46.9	53.1	94.3	4.8	1.0
Age as of 12/31/89										
16–23 years	0.7	5.2	9.0	8.4	76.8	47.7	52.3	95.2	3.4	1.5
24–29 years	0.5	5.0	11.7	9.3	73.5	46.7	53.3	93.0	5.0	2.0
30–39 years	1.2	3.4	11.5	7.9	76.0	37.8	62.2	95.1	4.0	0.8
40 years or older	0.9	3.4	9.1	4.6	82.1	33.9	66.1	97.3	1.8	1.0

*The same variable is used as both the column and row.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Financially dependent students were distributed across all family income groups. At the extremes, 10 percent came from families with annual incomes of less than $10,000, and 6 percent from families with incomes of $100,000 or more (table 2.4). Financially independent students were also spread across a wide income range (table 2.5). Fourteen percent had an income (including their spouses) of less than $5,000 a year, but 7 percent had an income of $50,000 or more and 19 percent had an income between $30,000 and $49,999.

Table 2.4—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by dependent family income, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Less than $10,000	$10,000 – $19,999	$20,000 – $29,999	$30,000 – $39,999	$40,000 – $49,999	$50,000 – $59,999	$60,000 – $69,999	$70,000 – $79,999	$80,000 – $99,999	$100,000 or more
Total	10.1	11.8	13.8	16.4	13.5	10.0	8.7	4.4	5.2	6.2
Attendance status										
Full-time	10.4	11.2	13.8	16.2	13.8	10.2	8.9	4.4	5.1	6.1
At least half-time	8.6	13.2	14.6	16.3	12.8	10.8	8.0	4.1	5.6	6.1
Less than half-time	10.4	12.6	13.5	18.4	12.7	7.8	7.7	4.7	5.2	7.0
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	9.5	11.3	13.6	16.6	13.81	0.3	8.8	4.6	5.2	6.3
Eligible noncitizen	22.0	24.5	15.6	16.3	5.3	3.5	5.7	0.4	3.6	3.2
Other	15.9	15.3	16.0	13.6	5.4	8.1	8.4	1.8	6.3	9.2
Control of institution										
Public	9.4	11.5	14.1	17.3	14.1	10.4	8.9	4.3	5.1	5.2
Private not-for-profit	10.7	10.3	12.0	13.5	12.1	9.9	9.0	5.2	6.6	10.8
Private for-profit	18.3	22.0	17.4	16.7	10.3	6.0	4.9	1.8	1.5	1.2
Gender										
Male	9.0	11.1	13.0	16.3	13.9	10.5	9.2	4.3	5.8	6.9
Female	10.7	12.1	14.5	16.6	13.2	9.8	8.4	4.4	4.8	5.5
Institution level and control										
Public										
Less-than-2-year	10.6	22.3	25.3	13.3	7.3	10.6	9.0	0.2	1.0	0.3
2- to 3-year	9.6	13.5	15.2	17.7	13.7	9.8	8.0	3.5	4.4	4.7
4-year non-doctoral	11.0	10.9	14.5	17.0	15.2	10.7	8.6	4.3	4.0	3.7
4-year doctoral	7.9	9.3	12.2	17.0	13.9	10.7	10.0	5.4	6.7	6.8
Private not-for-profit										
Less-than-2-year	17.0	15.7	34.4	8.4	12.1	5.9	3.3	0.0	1.1	2.1
2- to 3-year	12.2	11.7	15.1	19.6	11.9	6.6	7.9	6.2	3.8	5.0
4-year non-doctoral	12.3	11.1	12.6	14.4	12.6	10.0	9.2	4.4	5.7	7.7
4-year doctoral	7.9	8.8	10.3	11.0	11.4	10.4	9.1	6.1	8.5	16.5
Private for-profit										
Less-than-2-year	20.5	26.1	16.1	14.5	8.8	4.9	4.3	1.8	1.8	1.2
2-year or more	15.8	17.3	18.9	19.2	12.1	7.3	5.6	1.7	1.2	1.2
Level of institution										
Less-than-2-year	18.1	24.9	18.8	14.1	8.6	6.3	5.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
2- to 3-year	10.1	13.7	15.3	17.8	13.4	9.5	7.9	3.5	4.2	4.6
4-year non-doctoral	11.6	10.9	13.9	16.1	14.3	10.4	8.8	4.3	4.6	5.2
4-year doctoral	7.9	9.2	11.8	15.6	13.3	10.7	9.8	5.5	7.1	9.0

Table 2.4—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by dependent family income, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Less than $10,000	$10,000 – $19,999	$20,000 – $29,999	$30,000 – $39,999	$40,000 – $49,999	$50,000 – $59,999	$60,000 – $69,999	$70,000 – $79,999	$80,000 – $99,999	$100,000 or more
Level undergraduate class										
First year	10.8	13.8	14.8	17.0	13.2	9.6	7.7	3.6	4.6	5.0
Second year	9.6	10.5	13.9	16.4	13.5	10.7	9.4	5.1	4.9	6.1
Third year	9.4	9.0	11.7	16.1	14.2	10.8	8.8	5.3	6.6	8.1
Fourth year	8.8	9.6	12.2	14.9	13.7	9.7	11.0	5.0	6.6	8.4
Fifth year/not graduate	14.9	15.4	13.4	15.6	12.5	9.3	8.0	3.3	3.3	4.3
Race–ethnicity										
Native American	13.7	15.1	19.4	17.5	15.5	8.6	4.9	1.7	1.0	2.7
Asian	15.6	15.5	15.1	13.2	10.7	6.7	8.7	2.8	5.4	6.5
Black, non-Hispanic	23.6	19.9	16.3	13.8	9.0	7.0	4.9	1.7	1.9	1.9
Hispanic	17.5	22.2	17.7	15.2	9.0	5.0	5.1	1.8	2.8	3.8
White, non-Hispanic	7.6	9.6	13.0	17.0	14.5	11.1	9.5	5.0	5.8	6.8
Residence										
On campus	9.6	9.2	12.3	15.6	14.0	11.1	9.0	5.3	6.4	7.6
Off campus	10.6	11.1	12.6	16.0	12.4	9.1	9.8	4.2	6.3	7.9
With parents	10.0	14.0	15.6	17.3	13.8	10.0	7.8	3.8	3.7	4.0

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 2.5—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by independent student and spouse income, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Less than $5,000	$5,000 – $9,999	$10,000 – $19,999	$20,000 – $29,999	$30,000 – $49,999	$50,000 or more
Total	13.8	16.9	26.5	17.5	18.6	6.6
Attendance status						
Full-time	24.6	25.9	25.9	11.6	9.2	2.9
At least half-time	10.7	15.3	30.4	18.1	18.5	7.0
Less than half-time	5.9	9.7	24.6	22.2	27.8	9.7
Citizenship						
U.S.citizen	13.4	16.5	26.6	17.8	18.9	6.7
Eligible noncitizen	20.8	25.0	28.5	11.2	10.5	4.0
Other	21.7	22.4	21.1	11.6	17.1	6.1
Control of institution						
Public	12.9	15.7	26.4	18.2	19.9	6.9
Private not-for-profit	13.6	16.0	24.8	17.4	19.4	8.8
Private for-profit	21.3	27.4	28.9	12.6	7.9	2.0
Gender						
Male	13.7	17.5	27.6	18.0	17.5	5.9
Female	13.2	16.0	25.8	17.7	20.1	7.2
Institution level and control						
Public						
Less-than-2-year	15.0	15.7	24.9	20.1	17.6	6.7
2- to 3-year	10.3	13.7	27.4	19.4	21.8	7.4
4-year non-doctoral	16.6	18.5	24.6	17.1	17.4	5.8
4-year doctoral	20.9	22.1	23.9	13.5	14.2	5.5
Private not-for-profit						
Less-than-2-year	13.1	15.2	43.4	19.1	8.2	1.0
2- to 3-year	12.2	20.5	28.8	19.7	14.8	4.1
4-year non-doctoral	11.7	13.6	24.2	17.3	22.9	10.3
4-year doctoral	18.6	20.4	21.0	16.2	15.1	8.7
Private for-profit						
Less-than-2-year	20.9	28.4	27.6	13.3	7.6	2.2
2 -year or more	22.1	25.3	31.4	11.2	8.4	1.6
Level of institution						
Less-than-2-year	19.2	25.0	28.0	15.1	9.7	3.0
2- to 3-year	10.9	14.4	27.7	19.0	21.0	7.1
4-year non-doctoral	14.9	16.9	24.7	17.1	19.1	7.4
4-year doctoral	20.4	21.8	23.3	14.1	14.4	6.1

Table 2.5—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by independent student and spouse income, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Less than $5,000	$5,000 – $9,999	$10,000 – $19,999	$20,000 – $29,999	$30,000 – $49,999	$50,000 or more
Level of undergraduate class						
First year	12.9	16.5	28.3	16.9	19.6	5.9
Second year	12.6	16.2	26.4	19.7	17.7	7.4
Third year	15.6	17.7	25.0	16.7	17.4	7.6
Fourth year	18.9	20.3	22.3	16.2	16.0	6.4
Fifth year/not graduate	10.4	12.1	17.8	20.6	26.6	12.5
Race-ethnicity						
Native American	19.4	14.8	30.4	13.9	17.5	4.0
Asian	20.2	16.5	22.9	16.3	18.7	5.4
Black, non-Hispanic	17.7	21.4	30.7	16.4	9.2	4.7
Hispanic	16.6	22.9	28.7	16.1	12.7	3.1
White, non-Hispanic	12.5	15.7	25.8	18.0	20.6	7.3
Residence						
On campus	38.8	26.9	17.3	7.9	5.5	3.6
Off campus	11.4	14.6	25.8	19.0	21.6	7.7
With parents	23.0	28.4	32.4	11.0	4.0	1.2
Age as of 12/31/89						
16-23 years	24.1	28.4	30.5	10.0	6.1	0.9
24-29 years	13.6	18.1	31.3	19.3	14.0	3.6
30-39 years	9.1	11.1	21.9	20.7	27.7	9.5
40 years or older	7.2	7.8	22.1	20.9	28.1	13.9

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Financially independent students were more likely than financially dependent students to be enrolled in less-than-2-year or 2- to 3-year institutions. They were also more likely to be enrolled in private for-profit institutions, most of which are less-than-2-year or 2- to 3-year institutions (table 2.6).

Table 2.6—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by level and control of institution, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Level of institution				Control of institution		
	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral	Public	Private not-for profit	Private for-profit
Total	7.5	45.5	23.5	23.4	75.7	15.8	8.6
Attendance status							
Full-time	10.0	27.0	30.1	33.0	66.6	21.4	12.0
At least half-time	4.7	60.5	18.9	15.9	85.9	9.2	4.9
Less than half-time	2.0	76.2	12.9	9.0	90.9	7.5	1.6
Citizenship							
U.S. citizen	7.0	45.6	23.7	23.7	76.1	15.7	8.2
Eligible noncitizen	18.4	50.5	16.8	14.3	71.3	12.2	16.4
Other	4.5	39.5	25.6	30.4	69.8	27.0	3.2
Control of institution							
Public	1.9	55.4	18.6	24.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Private not-for-profit	2.8	7.7	56.9	32.6	(*)	(*)	(*)
Private for-profit	66.1	28.3	5.5	0.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
Dependency status							
Dependent	3.7	33.3	29.5	33.5	74.1	20.9	5.0
Independent	10.9	57.0	18.0	14.2	77.3	11.0	11.6
Gender							
Male	5.7	44.2	24.0	26.1	77.5	16.3	6.2
Female	6.6	47.4	23.9	22.1	76.4	15.6	8.0
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	7.7	33.8	32.3	26.2	67.8	21.9	10.4
$10,000–19,999	7.3	38.8	27.5	26.4	72.9	18.3	8.8
$20,000–29,999	4.7	36.8	29.7	28.8	75.9	18.1	5.9
$30,000–39,999	2.9	36.0	29.0	32.2	78.1	17.1	4.8
$40,000–49,999	2.2	33.1	31.4	33.4	77.6	18.8	3.6
$50,000–59,999	2.1	31.4	30.7	35.8	76.7	20.5	2.8
$60,000–69,999	2.1	30.0	29.9	38.0	75.7	21.7	2.6
$70,000–79,999	1.1	26.5	29.4	43.0	73.3	24.8	1.9
$80,000–99,999	1.1	26.7	26.2	46.1	72.2	26.5	1.4
$100,000 or more	0.6	24.6	25.2	49.6	62.4	36.7	0.9

Table 2.6—Percentage distribution of undergraduate students by level and control of institution, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Level of institution				Control of institution		
	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral	Public	Private not-for profit	Private for-profit
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	19.3	44.6	17.9	18.2	67.6	11.0	21.5
$5,000-9,999	14.2	49.1	18.3	18.5	72.8	10.4	16.8
$10,000-19,999	10.1	60.3	17.0	12.6	78.4	10.3	11.3
$20,000-29,999	8.2	62.5	17.8	11.5	81.6	10.9	7.5
$30,000-49,999	5.0	65.1	18.8	11.1	84.2	11.5	4.4
$50,000 or more	4.4	61.9	20.4	13.3	82.1	14.8	3.1
Level of institution							
Less-than-2-year	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	18.9	5.9	75.2
2- to 3-year	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	92.0	2.7	5.3
4-year non-doctoral	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	59.9	38.1	2.0
4-year doctoral	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	77.9	22.0	0.1
Level of undergraduate class							
First year	14.2	58.9	14.7	12.2	74.4	10.8	14.8
Second year	1.4	56.3	20.6	21.7	80.8	15.2	3.9
Third year	0.1	11.3	44.4	44.2	71.9	27.6	0.5
Fourth year	0.1	5.3	43.5	51.2	73.9	25.6	0.6
Fifth year/not graduate	0.7	30.1	38.4	30.8	80.4	18.5	1.2
Race-ethnicity							
Native American	9.4	57.3	16.1	17.3	78.4	10.4	11.3
Asian	4.2	49.3	20.7	25.9	81.2	13.5	5.3
Black, non-Hispanic	17.0	45.1	20.7	17.2	68.1	12.0	19.9
Hispanic	15.3	47.3	19.3	18.1	68.2	16.5	15.3
White, non-Hispanic	5.6	45.1	24.7	24.7	77.2	16.4	6.5
Residence							
On campus	0.7	6.8	46.2	46.3	55.9	42.3	1.8
Off campus	9.0	50.9	19.1	21.0	78.9	11.3	9.8
With parents	8.1	55.5	20.3	16.1	79.7	10.6	9.7
Age as of 12/31/89							
16-23 years	4.8	36.7	27.6	30.9	74.7	18.9	6.4
24-29 years	8.7	54.9	19.6	16.9	78.7	11.6	9.8
30-39 years	8.3	62.1	17.8	11.8	80.5	11.1	8.5
40 years or older	7.1	69.1	15.8	8.1	84.4	9.8	5.8

*The same variable is used as both the column and row.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Financially dependent students enrolled in all types of institutions (table 2.6). Roughly equal proportions attended 2- to 3-year, 4-year doctoral-granting, and other 4-year institutions with the remaining few (4 percent) attending less-than-2-year institutions. Approximately three-quarters (74 percent) were enrolled in public institutions.

Attendance Status

Approximately two-thirds (66 percent) of all full-time undergraduates were financially dependent (table 2.2). In contrast, part-time students were more likely to be financially independent than dependent. Sixty-five percent of students who were at least half time, and 81 percent of those who were less than half time were financially independent.

Younger students (those 16 through 24 years old) were much more likely to be full time than were students in the other age groups (table 2.2).

Residence

Undergraduates who lived in campus housing were for the most part financially dependent (91 percent), full time (94 percent), and enrolled in 4-year institutions (46 percent attended 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions, and 46 percent attended 4-year doctoral-granting institutions) (tables 2.2 and 2.6). Younger students were more likely than older ones to live with their parents, and were also more likely to live in campus housing (table 2.2). Forty percent of students 16 through 24 years old lived with their parents, compared with 18 percent of students aged 25 through 29, 6 percent of students aged 30 through 39, and 3 percent of those aged 40 or older. Twenty-four percent of the youngest age group lived in campus housing, while no more than 2 percent of any of the other age groups did so.

Citizenship

Approximately one-third of the noncitizens who were eligible for financial aid were Asian, and another one-third were Hispanic (table 2.3). Of the noncitizens who were not eligible for financial aid, 41 percent were Asian and 17 percent were Hispanic. Noncitizens who were not eligible for financial aid were more likely than U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens to attend private not-for-profit institutions (27 percent compared with 16 percent and 12 percent, respectively) (table 2.6).

Income

Income is a critical factor in determining a student's eligibility for financial aid and how much the student receives. Among dependent students, family income and attendance status were not notably related, but among independent students, students in the higher income groups were more likely than those in the lower income groups to be enrolled less than half time (table 2.4).

While the majority of all undergraduates attended public institutions, financially dependent students in the highest family income category were more likely to choose private not-for-profit institutions than were students in the income categories of less than $70,000 a year (table 2.4). In addition, dependent students from families with high incomes were more likely to choose 4-year doctoral-granting institutions. On the other hand, financially independent students in the lowest income categories were more likely to enroll in private for-profit institutions than were students in the greater than $10,000 income categories (table 2.5).

Demographic Characteristics

Very few differences were found between males and females in terms of the major financial aid-related characteristics. The most notable difference was that female undergraduates were more likely than male undergraduates to be financially independent (55 percent compared with 47 percent) (table 2.2).

In contrast, there were some important differences by race–ethnicity. Blacks were more likely to be financially independent (61 percent) than Asians (45 percent), Hispanics (53 percent), or whites (51 percent) (table 2.2). Among all racial–ethnic groups, Asians were the most likely to be noncitizens who were not eligible for financial aid. For instance, 12 percent of all Asian undergraduates were in this category, while the next highest percentage was 3 percent, for Hispanics. Among dependent students, almost one-quarter of all blacks (24 percent) were in the lowest income category, which was proportionately greater than for whites or Asians, who had 8 percent and 16 percent, respectively, in this category (table 2.4). Greater proportions of blacks and Hispanics (17 percent and 15 percent, respectively) attended less-than-2-year institutions than did whites or Asians (6 percent and 4 percent, respectively) (table 2.6).

Enrollments by Type of Institution

Less-Than-2-Year Institutions

Three-quarters of less-than-2-year students attended proprietary institutions (table 2.6). Most of the rest (19 percent) were enrolled in public institutions, with the remaining 6 percent attending private not-for-profit institutions. Students attending less-than-2-year institutions were primarily financially independent (76 percent) and mostly full time (80 percent). Very few students (2 percent) lived in campus housing; about one-third of them lived with their parents (table 2.2). Among dependent students, the students who were enrolled in less-than-2-year institutions generally came from lower income families. Compared with other types of institutions, less-than-2-year institutions had the greatest proportions of students from the two lowest income groups (table 2.4).

In addition, less-than-2-year institutions had the smallest proportion of whites (56 percent compared with 75 percent or more in other types of institutions). They also had a greater proportion of blacks and of Hispanics, compared with other types of institutions.

2- to 3-Year Institutions

In contrast to less-than-2-year institutions, students at 2- to 3-year institutions attended mostly public institutions: 92 percent were at public, 3 percent were at private not-for-profit, and 5 percent were at proprietary institutions (table 2.6). The student population of 2- to 3-year institutions was primarily financially independent, although less so than that of less-than-2-year institutions (65 percent compared with 76 percent) (table 2.2). It was also a mixture of full- and part-time students: 33 percent were full time, 28 percent were at least half time, and 38 percent were less than half time. Students' housing arrangements were very similar to those of students in less-than-2-year institutions. In both cases, 2 percent of students lived in campus housing and approximately one-third lived with their parents.

In 2- to 3-year institutions, 75 percent of the students were white, 10 percent were black, 9 percent were Hispanic, 5 percent were Asian, and 1 percent were American Indian (table 2.3). For both financially dependent and independent students, the 2- to 3-year institutions had proportionately fewer students in the lowest two income groups than did the less-than-2-year institutions and had more students in the highest two income groups (tables 2.4 and 2.5).

4-Year Non-Doctoral-Granting Institutions

Enrollments at 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions were primarily in public institutions (60 percent) and in private not-for-profit institutions (38 percent) (table 2.6). Only 2 percent of students were enrolled in proprietary institutions. Overall, 60 percent of the students were dependent, and 71 percent attended full time (table 2.2). Moreover, 30 percent of students lived in campus housing, and 25 percent with their parents. However, about twice as many students at private not-for-profit 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions lived in campus housing as did students in public institutions of this type (43 percent compared with 22 percent). The students attending 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions were predominantly white (79 percent) (table 2.3).

Among 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions, a greater proportion of financially dependent students at private not-for-profit institutions were in the highest income group than at the public ones (8 percent compared with 4 percent) (table 2.4). The same pattern existed for financially independent students: 10 percent of those in private not-for-profit 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions had annual incomes of $50,000 or more, compared with 6 percent of those in public 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions (table 2.5).

4-Year Doctoral-Granting Institutions

More than three-quarters (78 percent) of enrollments at all 4-year doctoral-granting institutions were in public institutions (table 2.6). All but a very few of the rest were in private not-for profit institutions (22 percent). Overall, the students were mostly dependent (69 percent) and full time (78 percent) (table 2.2). As was the case in 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions, students in private not-for-profit institutions lived in campus housing at a much higher rate than did students in public institutions (43 percent compared with 26 percent). Eighty percent of the students attending 4-year doctoral-granting institutions were white (table 2.3).

In these institutions, 20 percent of the financially independent students were in the lowest income group (less than $5,000 a year) (table 2.5). Private not-for-profit 4-year doctoral-granting institutions had a much higher percentage of financially dependent students in the highest income group (17 percent) than did any other type of institution (table 2.4). The next highest was private 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions, with 8 percent.

Financial Aid Recipients

This section describes the characteristics of those undergraduates who received financial aid. Financial aid does not consist of only one kind of aid nor does it all originate from one source. Financial aid may come from either the federal or state governments, or institutions or a private source such as an employer or union. As subsequent chapters describe, the recipients of different kinds of financial aid differ across student and institutional characteristics. This section introduces this discussion of which students receive aid.

Financial aid may be awarded to students according to several different rules. As a result, the characteristics of financial aid recipients are varied. Some financial aid is awarded on the basis of financial need and some on the basis of merit. In general, financial aid recipients tend to be from lower income families, attend higher cost institutions such as private not-for-profit, and proprietary institutions, and live on campus.

About 43 percent of all undergraduates received some kind of financial aid in 1989–90 (table 2.7). Students who attended full time were more likely to receive aid than those who did not. About 57 percent of full-time students received aid, 30 percent of those who attended at least half time received aid, and 21 percent of those who attended less than half time received aid. Over 80 percent of students who attended proprietary institutions received some financial aid. This proportion was higher than at either public institutions (34 percent) or private not-for-profit institutions (63 percent). Seventy-four percent of dependent students with a family income less than $10,000 received aid while 15 percent of those with a family income of $100,000 or more received aid. Similarly, 65 percent of independent students with incomes less than $5,000 received aid compared with 27 percent of independent students with incomes in excess of $50,000.

Table 2.7—Percentage of undergraduates receiving aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Any aid	Grants	Work	Loans	Other
Total	42.8	36.2	4.8	18.8	8.0
Attendance status					
Full-time	57.2	48.0	8.3	29.8	10.9
At least half-time	30.4	25.6	1.2	9.9	4.3
Less than half-time	21.3	19.4	0.4	2.3	4.3
Citizenship					
U.S. citizen	43.0	36.4	4.9	19.3	8.0
Eligible noncitizen	50.4	43.4	7.4	19.5	7.8
Other	25.4	19.4	1.1	5.0	6.8
Control of institution					
Public	34.4	29.0	3.4	11.7	6.8
Private not-for-profit	62.9	56.4	13.8	31.7	13.3
Private for-profit	80.6	63.3	0.9	58.0	8.1
Dependency status					
Dependent	42.7	34.8	7.2	19.6	10.7
Independent	42.8	37.5	2.7	18.1	5.4
Gender					
Male	39.9	33.4	4.4	17.2	8.0
Female	43.3	37.0	5.3	18.9	8.0
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	73.9	70.5	14.3	32.0	11.3
$10,000-19,999	56.4	52.1	11.2	27.9	9.9
$20,000-29,999	50.6	42.1	10.6	27.3	10.6
$30,000-39,999	41.2	31.4	7.3	21.7	11.3
$40,000-49,999	38.7	27.3	5.3	17.6	13.2
$50,000-59,999	34.9	23.8	4.5	14.6	12.8
$60,000-69,999	26.3	17.7	2.5	8.5	10.2
$70,000-79,999	24.2	15.5	2.0	8.4	8.5
$80,000-99,999	20.3	13.6	1.1	4.9	7.3
$100,000 or more	15.1	10.4	0.4	3.1	5.8
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	65.1	60.4	6.7	32.3	7.7
$5,000-9,999	54.1	49.7	3.7	27.0	6.9
$10,000-19,999	40.0	32.4	2.2	17.6	5.2
$20,000-29,999	34.7	29.7	1.5	12.2	4.4
$30,000-49,999	27.3	22.6	0.5	7.3	3.9
$50,000 or more	26.5	23.5	0.1	3.4	3.3

Table 2.7—Percentage of undergraduates receiving aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Any aid	Grants	Work	Loans	Other
Institution level and control					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	38.0	29.3	0.7	8.2	9.2
2 -to 3-year	27.6	24.6	1.8	5.1	5.5
4-year non-doctoral	42.9	35.4	5.6	18.6	7.6
4-year doctoral	43.1	34.0	5.5	21.8	9.1
Private not-for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	65.8	39.9	7.2	16.1	30.5
2- to 3-year	56.0	48.5	6.9	23.0	8.7
4-year non-doctoral	66.5	60.9	14.7	33.3	13.7
4-year doctoral	58.0	51.7	14.4	32.3	12.4
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	82.2	65.2	0.7	58.5	8.0
2-year or more	77.4	59.5	1.4	57.2	8.2
Level of institution					
Less-than-2-year	72.9	57.0	1.1	46.5	9.5
2- to 3-year	30.9	27.1	1.9	8.2	94.3
4-year non-doctoral	52.7	45.5	9.0	25.1	9.9
4-year doctoral	46.4	37.9	7.4	24.1	9.8
Level of undergraduate class					
First year	41.6	35.0	3.6	17.5	7.5
Second year	41.9	36.5	5.4	17.0	7.9
Third year	47.8	40.1	7.0	23.1	9.6
Fourth year	45.3	37.6	6.7	23.5	8.5
Fifth year/not graduate	40.8	32.2	3.3	18.5	8.6
Race-ethnicity					
Native American	49.1	45.6	5.1	15.3	13.0
Asian	35.8	31.0	6.0	14.1	7.5
Black, non-Hispanic	60.2	53.1	7.5	29.0	7.7
Hispanic	49.9	46.9	5.4	19.0	7.2
White, non-Hispanic	40.1	33.3	4.3	17.7	8.1
Residence					
On campus	59.7	50.3	15.7	32.6	15.5
Off campus	41.5	35.1	3.1	17.8	6.4
With parents	36.6	31.0	2.5	13.4	7.2
Age as of 12/31/89					
16-23 years	43.9	36.2	6.8	20.5	10.1
24-29 years	42.0	36.7	2.9	20.3	4.9
30-39 years	40.5	35.6	2.2	14.2	5.3
40 years or older	30.1	27.0	1.3	6.7	4.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

The patterns of recipients that existed for all aid also largely existed for grants, work, and loans. There were some exceptions, however. For example, higher proportions of students who attended private not-for-profit institutions received work-study (14 percent) than at either public institutions (3 percent) or proprietary institutions (1 percent). Also, while higher proportions of females than males received any kind of aid (43 percent to 40 percent), the same proportion of males and females received loans (19 percent for females and 17 percent for males).

The average amount of financial aid received by an undergraduate was $3,606 in 1989-90 (table 2.8). Like the proportions of students who received aid, the average amount of aid received varied by student and institutional characteristics. Generally, students who attended higher cost institutions received higher amounts of financial aid. Students who attended private not-for-profit institutions received the highest average amount of aid ($5,613), students at proprietary institutions received an average of $4,066, and students at public institutions received the lowest average with an average of $2,718. The average amount of grants by control of institution followed the same pattern as all aid, but work-study and loans did not. The average amount of work-study received by students at proprietary institutions was higher than that at private not-for-profit institutions ($1,885 compared with $1,167), although less than 1 percent of the students at these institutions received work-study. The average amount of loans was the same ($3,046 at proprietary and $3,077 at private not-for-profit).

Summary

There is much diversity among the students enrolled in postsecondary education. They are single and married, are young and old, attend full time and part time, and are enrolled in less-than-2-year institutions and 4-year doctoral-granting institutions. An understanding of this diversity, particularly among undergraduates, provides a good background for looking at the financial aid-related characteristics of these students. After examining the characteristics of undergraduates, one can begin to describe who receives financial aid and who does not.

Table 2.8—Average amount of aid undergraduate students received by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Any aid	Grants	Work	Loans	Other
Total	$3,606	$2,257	$1,248	$2,799	$1,943
Attendance status					
Full-time	4,177	2,642	1,243	2,761	2,005
At least half-time	2,300	1,418	1,406	2,751	1,256
Less than half-time	1,701	990	—	3,594	2,054
Citizenship					
U.S. citizen	3,606	2,240	1,237	2,793	1,894
Eligible noncitizen	4,031	2,718	1,437	3,004	2,184
Other	4,625	3,597	—	2,714	4,376
Control of institution					
Public	2,718	1,721	1,297	2,503	1,628
Private not-for-profit	5,613	3,743	1,167	3,077	2,379
Private for-profit	4,066	1,986	1,885	3,046	2,985
Dependency status					
Dependent	4,091	2,758	1,174	2,499	2,146
Independent	3,180	1,840	1,429	3,096	1,561
Gender					
Male	3,736	2,369	1,244	2,862	2,124
Female	3,541	2,215	1,257	2,742	1,780
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	4,275	2,924	1,175	2,253	2,246
$10,000-19,999	4,365	2,890	1,190	2,430	1,750
$20,000-29,999	4,084	2,604	1,196	2,537	1,703
$30,000-39,999	4,058	2,617	1,163	2,463	2,169
$40,000-49,999	3,912	2,559	1,139	2,603	2,301
$50,000-59,999	3,818	2,524	1,134	2,587	2,382
$60,000-69,999	3,879	2,750	1,114	3,039	2,359
$70,000-79,999	4,001	3,259	1,291	3,120	2,018
$80,000-99,999	3,614	2,626	1,227	3,215	2,641
$100,000 or more	3,758	3,337	—	2,770	2,170
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	3,996	2,380	1,451	3,004	1,640
$5,000-9,999	3,617	2,026	1,477	2,975	1,538
$10,000-19,999	2,997	1,720	1,446	3,135	1,423
$20,000-29,999	2,553	1,330	1,253	3,307	1,781
$30,000-49,999	2,097	1,103	1,209	3,449	1,693
$50,000 or more	1,613	1,252	—	3,087	823

Table 2.8—Average amount of aid undergraduate students received by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Any aid	Grants	Work	Loans	Other
Institution level and control					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	1,832	1,124	—	2,547	1,667
2- to 3-year	1,998	1,321	1,288	2,718	1,377
4-year non-doctoral	3,017	1,935	1,184	2,300	1,623
4-year doctoral	3,608	2,255	1,398	2,520	1,977
Private not-for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	3,720	2,272	—	4,287	2,728
2-to 3-year	3,365	2,153	945	2,601	2,231
4-year non-doctoral	5,240	3,429	1,070	2,946	2,059
4-year doctoral	7,053	4,838	1,385	3,340	2,946
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	4,102	1,975	1,737	3,132	3,089
2-years or more	3,991	2,009	2,038	2,874	2,790
Level of institution					
Less-than-2-year	3,858	1,905	1,215	3,137	2,761
2- to 3-year	2,331	1,446	1,262	2,775	1,521
4-year non-doctoral	4,107	2,694	1,125	2,646	1,869
4-year doctoral	4,559	3,030	1,393	2,766	2,244
Level of undergraduate class					
First year	3,243	1,982	1,153	2,771	1,923
Second year	3,430	2,213	1,279	2,552	1,827
Third year	4,415	2,865	1,347	2,938	2,103
Fourth year	4,476	2,801	1,311	3,080	2,023
Fifth year/not graduate	3,447	1,925	1,222	2,955	2,226
Race-ethnicity					
Native American	3,827	2,495	1,220	3,189	2,008
Asian	4,383	2,954	1,480	2,968	2,281
Black, non-Hispanic	3,788	2,419	1,381	2,698	1,920
Hispanic	3,466	2,332	1,148	2,818	1,759
White, non-Hispanic	3,542	2,168	1,211	2,807	1,944
Residence					
On campus	5,332	3,666	1,160	2,596	2,209
Off campus	3,215	1,879	1,382	2,949	1,839
With parents	2,997	1,902	1,207	2,662	1,823
Age as of 12/31/89					
16-23 years	4,040	2,671	1,196	2,586	2,081
24-29 years	3,519	1,954	1,430	3,204	1,690
30-39 years	2,752	1,591	1,590	3,233	1,343
40 years or older	2,145	1,419	1,438	2,916	1,183

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

NOTE: Average amounts based upon recipients of aid only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Chapter 3
Costs of Attendance

An important factor in the calculation of need for financial aid is expected cost of attendance. The amount of financial aid a student needs is the difference between the cost of attendance and the financial resources available to the student from his or her family.

There are several measures that can be used to describe a student's costs of attendance. Some are budgets, which are constructed at the institution by the financial aid administrator, and take into account the student's attendance status (full time or part time) and the location of the student's residence (on campus, off campus, or living with parents). These institutionally-determined budgets usually include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and other costs. More than one institutional budget may be constructed for a student depending upon the type of aid for which the student is being considered. The two major most commonly used budgets are the one used in the Pell grant program, and the more general Congressional Methodology (CM) budget.

Another measure of cost of attendance is the sum of the student's and/or family's actual expenses for tuition and fees, room and board, and other expenses. Because institutional budgets are constructed from averages, actual (student-reported) costs are not usually the same as the institution's budget.

Three measures of the costs of attendance are used in this chapter. The first uses the term "total cost" or "total cost of attendance." Total cost is composed of tuition and fees (reported by the institution) and (student-reported) costs for room and board, books and supplies, and other expenses.[13]

The second and third measures used are the Pell and Congressional Methodology budgets. These are budgets that are constructed by the institution for those students who receive financial aid. Unlike total cost, not all students have either kind of budget. Those students who received a Pell grant have a Pell budget. In addition, students who received other financial aid may also have a Congressional Methodology budget.

The Pell budget is the sum of: tuition and fees for a full-time student; a living expense allowance for room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses, that are limited to $1,800 for some students and $2,400 for other students; a limited allowance for child care expenses; and handicap-related expenses. The budget is constructed for a full-time, full-year student. Enrollment intensity is taken into account at the time the Pell grant award is made.

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[13] See Glossary for more detail on the construction of total cost.

The CM budget is more discretionary than the Pell budget. The budget consists of the cost of tuition and fees, adjusted for enrollment intensity, and reasonable allowances for room and board, books and supplies, dependent care, and miscellaneous expenses. Additional costs related to a handicap or extraordinary educational costs may also be included in the budget.

This chapter begins by describing the total costs of attendance for all students enrolled in all types of institutions. It then focuses on costs of attendance for those students who were considered eligible for federal financial aid—that is, they attended at least half time and were either citizens or eligible noncitizens. Finally, the two institution budgets are compared in order to highlight their differences.

Total Costs of Attendance for All Undergraduates by Institutional and Student Characteristics

On average, the total cost of attending either a private not-for-profit or proprietary institution was greater than the total cost of attending a public institution. Also, the average total cost was greater at 4-year institutions than at 2- to 3-year and less-than-2-year institutions. The major reason for the difference is the amount of tuition. In some cases, the effect of tuition differences may be confounded by other factors. For example, many students who attend public 2- to 3-year institutions attend less than full time, which reduces their tuition cost. However, because many students who attend these institutions are married independent students and may have families, the living expenses they report can often be higher than those reported by a single student, especially one who lives at home. For the student who lives at home, the amount they report for living costs may not include the amount of their living costs their parents pay.

For undergraduate students at both doctoral- and non-doctoral-granting institutions, the average total cost of attendance at private not-for-profit 4-year institutions was greater than that at 4-year public institutions. For example, table 3.1 shows that undergraduates in private not-for-profit 4-year doctoral-granting institutions had an average total cost of $15,388, compared with $8,467 at public 4-year doctoral-granting institutions. Also, within the private not-for-profit sector, the average total cost at doctoral-granting institutions ($15,388) was higher than that at non-doctoral-granting institutions ($12,764) and at 2- to 3-year institutions ($8,981).

Table 3.1—Average student-reported total costs of attendance for undergraduates, by level and control of institution and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public				Private not-for-profit				Private for-profit	
	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less-than-2-year	2 or more year
Total	$6,526	$8,219	$8,402	$8,467	$12,454	$8,981	$12,764	$15,388	$11,047	$11,024
Attendance status										
Full-time	7,375	7,164	7,727	8,261	13,577	8,953	12,973	15,977	11,134	11,396
Half-time	6,005	8,605	10,201	9,228	11,934	9,523	13,151	14,340	12,777	10,753
Less than half-time	6,084	8,765	9,553	8,953	—	7,275	11,558	10,799	10,555	8,959
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	6,573	8,243	8,332	8,412	12,837	8,817	12,753	15,302	11,026	11,026
Eligible noncitizen	—	8,355	9,467	9,469	—	—	13,416	16,169	12,036	13,311
Other	—	8,190	10,441	10,889	—	—	14,711	18,364	—	—
Dependency										
Dependent	3,468	5,262	6,560	7,404	8,166	7,566	12,139	15,549	9,094	8,794
Independent	7,727	9,856	11,041	10,726	12,911	10,715	13,829	14,950	11,819	12,566
Gender										
Male	6,274	7,750	8,048	8,453	11,050	9,079	12,625	15,826	12,134	11,590
Female	6,859	8,631	8,673	8,486	13,800	8,903	12,890	14,917	10,521	10,724
Dependent student income										
Less than $10,000	—	5,400	6,713	6,891	—	6,593	11,327	14,270	7,997	7,212
$10,000–$19,999	—	4,674	6,318	7,090	—	6,799	11,236	14,997	8,109	9,265
$20,000–$29,999	3,386	4,750	6,555	6,989	—	7,056	11,130	14,859	9,744	9,113
$30,000–$39,999	—	5,179	6,489	7,090	—	6,103	11,646	14,346	9,770	8,771
$40,000–$49,999	—	5,218	6,344	7,067	—	7,094	11,896	14,547	9,841	9,053
$50,000–$59,999	—	5,028	6,334	7,307	—	7,968	12,434	14,671	11,008	9,052
$60,000–$69,999	—	5,769	6,684	7,724	—	7,645	12,356	15,079	—	8,902
$70,000–$79,999	—	4,598	6,820	7,581	—	—	12,968	16,276	—	—
$80,000–$99,999	—	6,413	7,156	8,201	—	—	14,476	16,518	—	—
$100,000 and over	—	7,667	7,418	9,062	—	12,318	13,941	18,014	—	—
Independent student income										
Less than $5,000	6,540	7,769	8,704	8,821	11,793	9,316	12,002	14,163	10,296	10,808
$5,000–$9,999	7,194	7,770	9,059	9,087	13,496	8,478	12,039	13,436	10,801	11,187
$10,000–$19,999	8,088	8,441	10,300	9,990	12,233	9,674	12,142	13,289	11,928	12,336
$20,000–$29,999	10,231	10,151	11,904	12,481	14,494	10,813	13,974	15,186	13,506	16,378
$30,000–$49,999	6,995	12,504	14,283	13,925	—	14,279	15,939	17,331	15,835	15,637
$50,000 and over	—	13,256	14,690	15,051	—	—	16,454	18,916	15,600	—

Table 3.1—Average student-reported total costs of attendance for undergraduates by level and control of institution and student characteristics: AY 1989–90—Continued

	Public				Private not-for-profit				Private for-profit	
	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less-than-2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less-than-2-year	2 or more year
Undergraduate level										
First year	6,655	7,616	6,938	6,768	12,528	8,539	11,318	14,105	11,047	10,856
Second year	5,297	9,237	7,760	8,286	—	9,514	13,221	15,413	11,278	11,301
Third year	—	9,075	9,416	9,007	—	8,182	13,244	16,175	—	13,160
Fourth year	—	10,019	9,462	9,547	—	11,279	13,793	16,215	—	—
Fifth year/not graduate	—	11,541	9,734	9,103	—	—	12,126	12,902	—	—
Race-ethnicity										
Native American	—	9,601	9,454	9,665	—	—	12,848	15,149	10,804	—
Asian	—	8,346	8,021	8,980	—	—	13,869	17,931	13,786	13,765
Black, non-Hispanic	6,752	7,427	8,156	7,810	13,945	8,614	11,974	14,495	9,980	9,778
Hispanic	—	8,170	8,349	7,799	9,303	11,968	11,811	14,717	10,972	11,888
White, non-Hispanic	6,496	8,292	8,447	8,525	13,194	8,863	12,841	15,287	11,342	11,150
Residence										
On campus	—	3,786	5,285	6,200	—	7,074	12,199	15,991	9,877	8,278
Off campus	7,770	10,018	10,806	10,357	13,681	11,341	14,515	16,315	12,513	13,153
With parents	3,855	5,173	6,383	6,177	8,606	7,362	9,992	11,656	8,401	8,155

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The average total cost of attendance varied greatly according to the characteristics of students. In part, these differences could be attributed to the type of institutions they attended. Within institutional category, however, the differences were still substantial. The combination of student and institutional characteristics determines the cost of attendance with the result that the average total cost for one type of student relative to another type of student at one institution may or may not be higher at another type of institution.

The average total cost varied with a student's attendance and dependency status. For example, at public 2- to 3-year institutions, and at both public doctoral- and non-doctoral-granting 4-year institutions, the average total cost was greater for students attending half time than for students attending full time. At public 2- to 3-year institutions, for example, the average cost for students attending half time was $8,605, while for full time students, it was $7,164; 4-year doctoral: $9,228 vs. $8,261. This result may be partly explained by other student characteristics affecting the costs of attendance. Also, the extent to which institution-reported cost information is combined with student-reported cost information may affect the total cost measure used in the analysis.[14] For example, if greater proportions of full-time students live at home than off campus, then the average cost for full-time students may be lower than that for half-time students. Likewise, the cost of attendance for independent students was higher than for dependent students in all institutional categories, with the exception of private not-for-profit 4-year doctoral-granting institutions

Students' income levels also tended to have a direct influence on their average total cost. In part, this may be due to differences in lifestyle. Dependent students with annual family incomes below $10,000 who attended 4-year doctoral-granting institutions had lower average total costs ($6,891 at public and $14,270 at private not-for-profit institutions) than did dependent students with family incomes of $100,000 or more ($9,062 at public and $18,014 at private not-for-profit institutions).[15]

The residence of a student also affected the cost of attending postsecondary education. Across all institutional categories, the cost of living off campus was higher than that of either living with one's parents or living on campus.

A final factor affecting the total costs of attendance is intensity of enrollment. That is, if a student attends part time or for only part of a year, then at least tuition costs will likely be lower than those for a student attending full time for the full year. However, since higher proportions of independent students (who have, on average, higher total costs) attend part time,[16] then the average total costs for part-time students could be higher than those of full-time students.

Tables 3.2a–b show the average total costs for students attending full time/full year and for all other attendance statuses. At less-than-2-year and 2-year-and-above proprietary institutions, the average total costs for students attending full year were higher than those for students attending part year ($14,349 and $13,976, respectively, for full-year students, and $10,578 and $9,523 for part-year students). The situation was mixed for the public and private not-for-profit institutions. At public less-than-2-year institutions, for example, the average total cost of attendance was higher for full-year students than for part-year students ($10,427 vs. $5,919). However, at public 2- to 3-year institutions, the opposite was true, and average total costs for part-year students were higher ($8,362) than for full-year students ($7,496). Among 4-year institutions, the total cost for full-year students was higher at public 4-year non-doctoral-granting and at 4-year not-for-profit doctoral-granting institutions, but the same for the other two types of 4-year institutions.

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[14] For some students in NPSAS who received financial aid, institution-reported data were used in the construction of total cost. Since institutional budgets are generally lower thansimilar costs reported by students, a high proportion of these aided students whose costs are used in the average of total cost may bias the averagetotal cost downward relative to other kinds of institutions.

[15] The influence of the combination of institution- and student-reported cost data discussed above may also partially explain these results.

[16] Ninety-one percent of dependent students attended at least half time, while 64 percent of independent students attended at least half time (table 2.2).

Table 3.2a—Average student-reported total cost for full-time/full-year undergraduates, by institutional control and level and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public				Private not-for-profit				Private for-profit	
	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less than 2 year	2 or more year
Total	$10,427	$7,496	$7,802	$8,460	$20,555	$10,132	$13,194	$16,897	$14,349	$13,796
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	10,513	7,502	7,715	8,381	20,480	10,112	13,162	16,773	14,279	13,663
Eligible noncitizen	—	—	10,053	9,756	—	—	13,278	18,237	—	—
Other	—	—	—	11,899	—	—	15,602	20,058	—	—
Dependency status										
Dependent	5,273	5,396	6,690	7,754	—	8,458	12,716	16,740	11,408	10,695
Independent	12,693	11,783	11,697	11,607	21,828	14,319	15,890	18,038	16,269	16,654
Gender										
Male	9,582	7,108	7,740	8,681	—	10,859	13,294	17,312	15,560	14,066
Female	11,315	7,836	7,836	8,240	21,182	9,723	13,110	16,426	13,693	13,532
Dependent student income										
Less than $10,000	—	6,148	6,803	7,354	—	7,965	11,924	15,337	11,080	10,179
$10,000–19,999	—	5,530	6,723	7,810	—	8,776	11,730	16,456	10,152	9,799
$20,000–29,999	—	5,032	6,595	7,317	—	8,694	11,904	15,955	12,025	10,873
$30,000–39,999	—	4,854	6,448	7,511	—	7,825	12,392	16,081	12,218	10,599
$40,000–49,999	—	5,560	6,553	7,190	—	7,735	12,280	15,919	—	11,061
$50,000–59,999	—	5,728	6,269	7,508	—	7,865	12,988	15,602	—	10,632
$60,000–69,999	—	4,856	6,990	8,022	—	8,921	13,240	16,107	—	—
$70,000–79,999	—	—	7,216	8,158	—	—	13,433	17,206	—	—
$80,000–99,999	—	—	7,458	8,705	—	—	14,732	17,770	—	—
$100,000 or more	—	—	7,431	9,590	—	—	14,436	18,936	—	—
Independent student income										
Less than $5,000	10,441	8,833	9,360	9,920	—	10,658	13,743	16,816	13,176	13,477
$5,000–9,999	10,373	9,366	10,309	10,076	—	14,007	13,842	16,131	15,880	15,549
$10,000–19,999	13,061	11,943	12,556	11,992	—	12,553	15,710	17,816	17,499	17,291
$20,000–29,999	17,548	14,748	15,891	15,203	—	16,893	18,668	20,894	19,879	19,726
$30,000–49,999	—	—	18,312	18,918	—	—	22,368	24,655	—	19,784
$50,000 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Race–ethnicity										
Native American	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	6,973	8,435	9,104	—	—	13,613	9,535	—	—
Black, non-Hispanic	—	7,064	7,257	7,378	—	9,025	12,605	16,740	14,142	13,213
Hispanic	—	7,100	8,230	8,052	—	—	12,800	16,281	14,293	13,940
White, non-Hispanic	10,223	7,516	7,789	8,528	19,604	10,238	13,243	16,693	14,308	13,803
Residence										
On campus	—	4,159	5,393	6,323	—	7,848	12,433	16,628	—	9,136
Off campus	13,081	11,312	10,716	10,609	22,900	4,254	16,993	19,332	16,886	16,985
With parents	4,807	5,204	6,806	6,788	—	8,923	11,419	13,271	10,680	10,330

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Table 3.2b—Average student-reported total cost for part-time or part-year undergraduates, by institutional control and level and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public				Private not-for-profit				Private for-profit	
	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral	Less than 2 year	2 or more year
Total	$5,919	$8,362	$8,911	$8,482	$11,294	$8,303	$12,418	$13,354	$10,578	$9,523
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	5,891	8,385	8,864	8,452	11,816	8,028	12,427	13,283	10,538	9,552
Eligible noncitizen	—	8,601	9,197	9,332	—	—	13,367	13,982	11,826	—
Other	—	8,138	11,200	—	—	—	14,264	15,794	—	—
Dependency status										
Dependent	3,199	5,259	6,416	6,914	8,247	6,986	10,922	13,021	8,371	7,340
Independent	6,937	9,759	10,863	10,397	11,753	9,542	13,360	13,733	11,365	10,751
Gender										
Male	5,779	7,904	8,353	8,266	10,244	7,926	12,020	13,686	11,551	10,283
Female	6,139	8,761	9,319	8,705	12,295	8,502	12,730	12,985	10,043	9,194
Dependent student income										
Less than $10,000	—	5,311	6,524	5,911	—	5,858	9,987	11,743	7,554	5,943
$10,000–19,999	—	4,450	5,922	6,186	—	5,477	10,125	11,811	7,971	7,391
$20,000–29,999	3,269	4,641	6,445	6,529	—	5,730	9,676	13,038	8,789	8,142
$30,000–39,999	—	5,293	6,623	6,539	—	4,761	9,988	10,588	7,893	7,885
$40,000–49,999	—	5,150	6,136	6,862	—	6,463	11,338	12,026	9,347	7,550
$50,000–59,999	—	4,875	6,448	7,115	—	—	11,090	12,713	—	—
$60,000–69,999	—	6,101	6,175	7,374	—	—	10,451	13,054	—	—
$70,000–79,999	—	4,660	6,453	7,036	—	—	12,112	13,892	—	—
$80,000–99,999	—	6,644	6,885	7,498	—	—	14,265	13,572	—	—
$100,000 or more	—	7,567	7,566	8,383	—	—	12,721	15,867	—	—
Independent student income										
Less than $5,000	5,188	7,509	8,363	8,068	11,370	8,702	10,354	12,135	9,810	9,105
$5,000–9,999	6,265	7,695	8,352	8,544	—	6,984	10,992	11,560	10,429	9,286
$10,000–19,999	7,842	8,231	9,662	9,180	12,708	8,177	11,287	11,612	11,261	10,631
$20,000–29,999	9,025	9,965	11,274	11,912	—	9,613	13,347	14,502	13,136	14,578
$30,000–49,999	6,257	12,379	13,930	13,359	—	13,275	15,307	16,080	15,686	13,308
$50,000 or more	—	13,182	14,335	14,355	—	—	16,326	17,554	14,730	—
Race–ethnicity										
Native American	—	9,829	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	8,576	7,783	9,017	—	—	14,355	15,343	13,080	—
Black, non-Hispanic	6,394	7,482	8,853	8,202	11,608	8,580	11,513	12,391	9,671	8,499
Hispanic	—	8,303	8,459	7,520	8,758	—	10,832	13,117	10,485	11,022
White, non-Hispanic	5,821	8,440	9,018	8,535	12,459	8,016	12,531	13,322	10,809	9,534
Residence										
On campus	—	—	4,875	5,877	—	5,941	11,589	13,759	—	7,362
Off campus	6,776	9,942	10,883	10,180	12,236	10,134	13,757	14,319	11,897	10,996
With parents	3,988	5,218	6,134	5,762	8,585	6,870	8,722	10,224	8,065	7,225

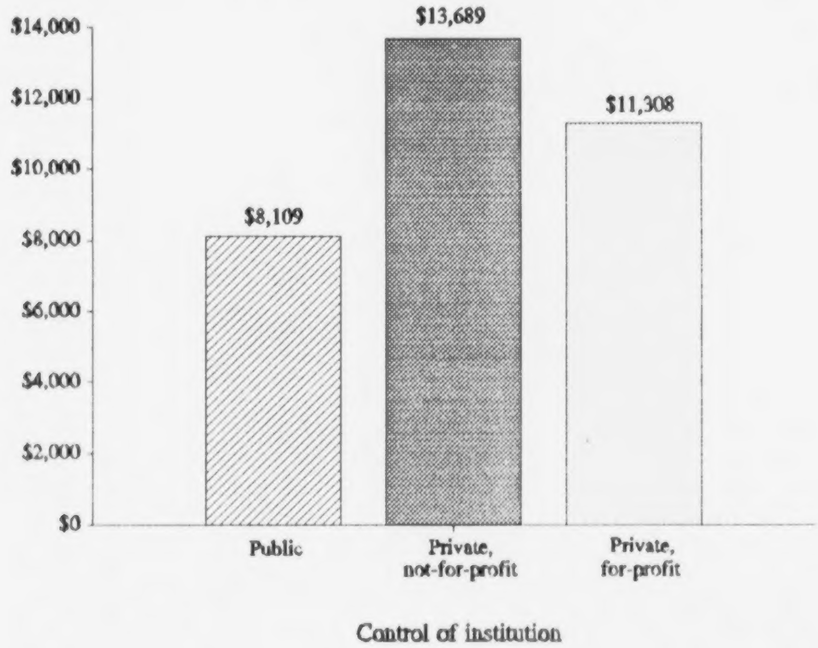
—Samples not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Costs of Attendance for Eligible Students by Control and Level of Institution and Student Characteristics

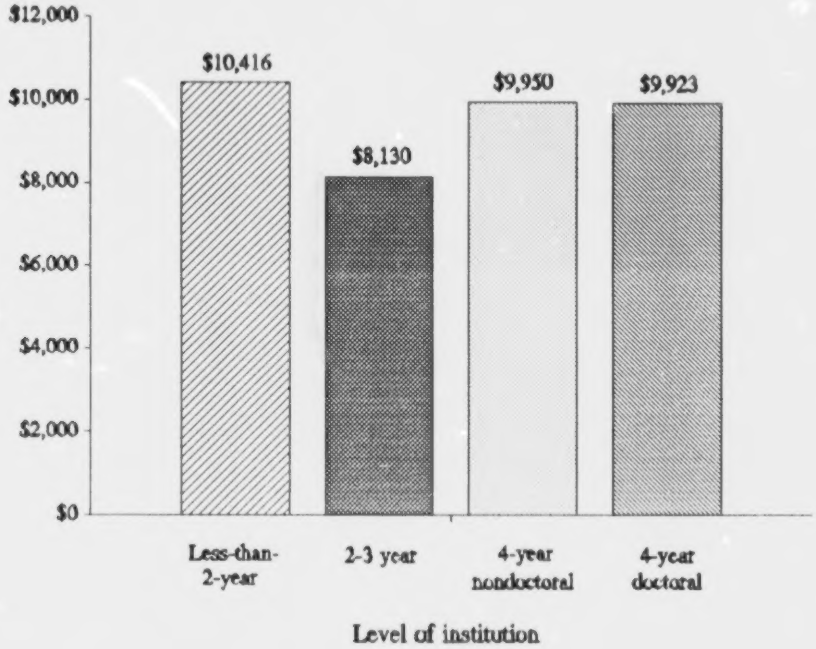
This section focuses on the cost of attendance for the subset of the total undergraduate population that is eligible to receive federal financial aid. As discussed in Chapter 2, eligibility for federal financial aid means a student must be either a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen, and must attend at least half time. Since 71 percent of undergraduates meet these eligibility requirements, the variations in the costs of attendance for eligible students across student and institutional characteristics were similar to the variations for all undergraduate students discussed above (see figures 3.1–3.2 and table 3.3).

Figure 3.1—Average student-reported cost of attendance for all eligible undergraduate students, by control of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Figure 3.2—Average student-reported cost of attendance for all eligible undergraduate students, by level of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 3.3—Average student-reported total costs of attendance for undergraduates eligible for financial aid, by institution control and level and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	$8,109	$13,689	$11,308	$10,416	$8,180	$9,950	$9,923
Dependency status							
Dependent	6,317	13,344	9,104	7,851	5,416	8,726	9,239
Independent	10,679	14,569	12,436	11,434	10,630	12,469	11,870
Gender							
Male	7,786	13,898	12,027	10,549	7,647	9,653	10,102
Female	8,392	13,508	10,872	10,358	8,596	10,201	9,752
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	6,040	11,843	8,189	7,828	5,383	8,522	8,398
$10,000–$19,999	5,884	12,118	8,773	7,876	5,202	8,124	8,670
$20,000–$29,999	5,882	12,219	9,648	7,242	5,100	8,325	8,529
$30,000–$39,999	6,235	12,348	9,129	8,317	5,495	8,371	8,302
$40,000–$49,999	6,171	12,838	9,328	8,286	5,380	8,301	8,438
$50,000–$59,999	6,216	13,232	9,692	7,928	5,311	8,640	8,927
$60,000–$69,999	6,529	13,421	9,291	6,200	5,455	8,855	9,222
$70,000–$79,999	6,589	14,398	—	—	4,932	9,307	9,789
$80,000–$99,999	7,361	15,448	—	—	6,323	10,689	10,479
$100,000 and over	8,011	16,470	—	—	6,773	11,163	12,905
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	8,535	12,814	10,365	9,917	8,522	9,736	10,036
$5,000–$9,999	9,034	12,529	11,613	11,060	9,064	10,202	9,974
$10,000–$19,999	9,797	13,120	12,784	11,753	9,693	11,633	11,095
$20,000–$29,999	12,023	15,404	15,236	13,409	11,685	14,204	14,068
$30,000–$49,999	14,466	17,891	16,750	13,065	14,253	16,682	16,367
$50,000 and over	15,035	19,215	15,540	12,981	14,129	17,923	18,796
Race–ethnicity							
Native American	10,109	14,821	11,777	11,280	10,790	11,053	10,872
Asian	8,288	16,417	13,783	12,865	8,266	9,491	11,424
Black, non–Hispanic	7,479	12,898	10,382	10,359	7,698	9,232	9,171
Hispanic	7,710	12,615	11,573	10,812	7,836	9,449	9,280
White, non–Hispanic	8,181	13,693	11,473	10,277	8,251	10,063	9,930
Residence							
On campus	5,686	13,298	8,462	7,614	5,539	9,017	9,288
Off campus	10,471	15,698	13,019	11,872	10,680	12,184	11,422
With parents	5,547	10,730	8,686	7,724	5,349	7,458	7,203

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The two most important factors in determining the total cost of attendance are tuition and fees, and room and board. The amount of tuition an institution charges differs across types of institutions. In general, tuition costs were higher at private not-for-profit and private for-profit institutions than at public institutions, and at higher 4-year institutions than at less-than-4-year institutions (see table 3.4). The costs of tuition also varies within institutions and usually is a result of enrollment intensity. A full-time student pays a greater amount for tuition than a part-time student, for example.

Table 3.4—Average student-reported tuition costs for undergraduates eligible for financial aid, by institutional control and level and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2-year	2- to 3-year	4-year nondoctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	$1,322	$7,051	$4,792	$4,301	$1,073	$3,481	$3,554
Dependency status							
Dependent	1,607	8,201	4,867	4,382	1,153	4,075	3,995
Independent	932	4,377	4,759	4,270	1,008	2,306	2,343
Gender							
Male	1,362	7,545	5,360	4,351	1,047	3,579	3,723
Female	1,292	6,816	4,317	3,947	1,060	3,445	3,415
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	1,377	6,478	4,726	4,817	1,209	3,629	3,344
$10,000–$19,999	1,351	6,754	4,744	4,121	1,094	3,462	3,484
$20,000–$29,999	1,450	7,325	5,056	3,902	1,180	3,629	3,514
$30,000–$39,999	1,531	7,800	4,844	4,567	1,103	3,857	3,245
$40,000–$49,999	1,644	8,253	4,844	4,720	1,119	3,951	3,610
$50,000–$59,999	1,658	8,439	4,818	4,049	1,052	4,164	3,887
$60,000–$69,999	1,851	8,797	5,245	3,368	1,420	4,503	4,032
$70,000–$79,999	2,081	9,428	—	—	1,547	4,563	4,735
$80,000–$99,999	1,848	10,001	—	—	904	5,478	4,910
$100,000 and over	2,086	10,780	—	—	1,051	6,272	6,623
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	1,145	5,394	4,717	4,514	1,224	2,671	2,665
$5,000–$9,999	1,084	4,900	4,877	4,599	1,248	2,333	2,457
$10,000–$19,999	831	4,108	4,802	4,122	1,000	2,220	2,117
$20,000–$29,999	803	3,578	4,654	3,905	815	2,049	2,098
$30,000–$49,999	803	3,620	4,556	3,289	773	2,131	2,032
$50,000 and over	670	3,941	4,609	3,464	570	2,206	2,338
Race–ethnicity							
Native American	872	7,300	4,792	4,605	777	3,366	2,824
Asian	1,160	9,491	4,809	4,500	716	2,715	4,812
Black, non-Hispanic	1,203	6,130	4,642	4,454	1,303	2,855	3,165
Hispanic	795	4,255	5,407	5,141	839	2,267	2,686
White, non-Hispanic	1,397	7,355	4,684	3,942	1,089	3,695	3,590
Residence							
On campus	2,335	9,021	5,567	5,200	2,985	5,449	5,232
Off campus	1,164	5,440	4,817	4,326	961	2,460	2,781
With parents	1,098	5,332	4,654	4,201	1,063	2,543	2,671

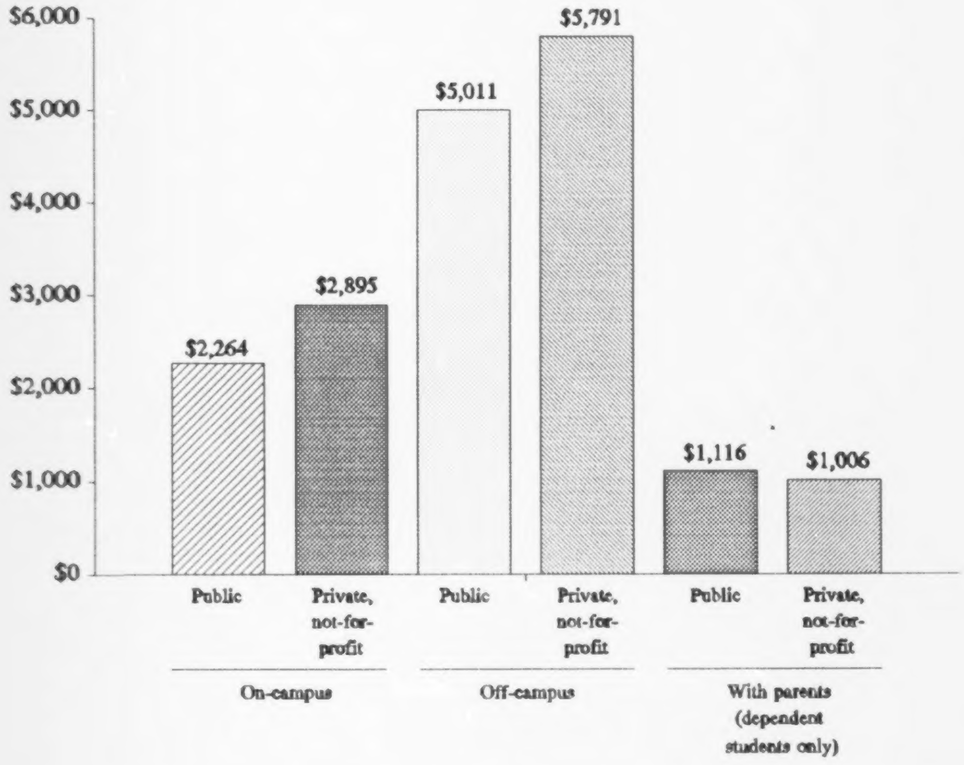
—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The second major component of the total cost of attendance is the amount students pay for room and board. While the institution sets the leve! of tuition, room and board is more dependent upon the characteristics and decisions of students.

The room and board costs that students report vary for many reasons. At many institutions, housing is partially subsidized and therefore can cost less than off-campus housing. Also, students may have different costs depending upon their lifestyle and dependency status. For example, most dependent students are single, and therefore are more likely to live either on campus or off campus in a shared-cost living arrangement. On the other hand, independent students, especially if they have a family, are more likely to either live in married student housing or not to share housing costs with others. As already indicated, on average, the cost of living off campus was higher than either living with one's parents or living on campus (see figure 3.3 and table 3.5).

Figure 3.3—Average student-reported room and board cost for all eligible undergraduate students, by residence and control of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 3.5—Average student-reported room and board costs for all eligible undergraduate students, by residence, control of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	On-campus		Off-campus		With parents (dep. students)	
	Public	Private not-for-profit	Public	Private not-for-profit	Public	Private not-for-profit
Total	$2,264	$2,895	$5,011	$5,791	$1,116	$1,006
Dependency status						
Dependent	2,290	2,937	3,748	3,944	—	—
Independent	1,916	2,265	6,449	7,061	—	—
Dependent income						
Less than $10,000	2,067	2,706	3,847	3,534	1,343	1,079
$10,000-19,999	2,279	2,623	3,500	3,709	1,199	1,318
$20,000-29,999	2,285	2,887	3,621	3,761	1,189	1,015
$30,000-39,999	2,199	2,797	3,686	3,768	1,126	996
$40,000-49,999	2,418	2,927	3,655	3,567	864	839
$50,000-59,999	2,329	3,157	3,735	3,837	1,057	814
$60,000-69,999	2,338	2,847	3,668	3,734	946	773
$70,000-79,999	2,316	3,082	3,884	4,005	1,006	1,060
$80,000-99,999	2,548	3,148	3,938	4,394	1,437	1,140
$100,000 or more	2,070	3,170	4,281	4,758	1,499	1,399
Independent student income						
Less than $5,000	1,925	2,195	4,916	4,939	—	—
$5,000-9,999	1,759	2,185	5,107	5,063	—	—
$10,000-19,999	—	2,526	5,701	5,791	—	—
$20,000-29,999	—	—	7,336	7,506	—	—
$30,000-49,999	—	—	9,110	9,255	—	—
$50,000 or more	—	—	10,676	10,010	—	—

—Sample size not sufficent for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Budgeted Costs by Institutional Control

The discussion above indicated that there are several ways to measure the cost of attendance. It was also noted above that for students who applied for financial aid, the institution constructs a budget that is then used to determine the student's need. Budgets, however, vary across financial aid programs. For example, the Pell program allows a limit of either $1,800 or $2,400 (depending upon the student's living arrangement) for living costs. In other federal aid programs, or with state aid, additional amounts may be allowed for living costs.

This section compares the two institutional budgets with the student-reported total cost of attendance for undergraduates who were enrolled in postsecondary education at least half time and were either citizens or eligible noncitizens. In this section, the Pell and Congressional Methodology (CM) budgets are each compared to the actual costs of attendance. For the purposes of this analysis, only those students for whom both student-reported costs and institutional budget measures exist are included.

It should be emphasized that the budgets are based on averages constructed by the institution. Student-reported costs are expected to differ from the budget amount.

At public and proprietary institutions, the total student-reported cost was higher than the CM budget (tables 3.6a–c). However, there were different patterns across the three categories of institutions that varied by budget components and student characteristics.

Table 3.6a—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average CM budgets for undergraduates with CM budgets at public institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	CM total	CM tuition	CM room & board	CM books
Total	$7,979	$1,495	$3,446	$439	$6,520	$2,033	$2,812	$375
Dependency status								
Dependent	6,324	1,779	2,285	438	6,446	2,150	2,648	394
Independent	10,205	1,148	5,006	440	6,616	1,892	3,013	352
Dependent student income								
Less than $10,000	6,277	1,556	2,353	453	6,152	1,829	2,595	442
$10,000–$19,999	6,126	1,557	2,196	431	6,253	2,015	2,553	398
$20,000–$29,999	6,140	1,730	2,196	423	6,337	2,245	2,503	372
$30,000–$39,999	6,652	1,833	2,371	433	6,496	2,096	2,760	381
$40,000–$49,999	6,176	1,890	2,251	440	6,656	2,311	2,799	380
$50,000–$59,999	6,370	2,091	2,244	473	6,806	2,395	2,742	384
$60,000–$69,999	6,368	2,136	2,045	473	6,945	2,460	2,748	422
$70,000–$79,999	6,041	2,146	2,376	349	6,799	2,789	2,411	328
$80,000–$99,999	8,881	2,970	3,166	531	7,628	3,055	2,905	404
$100,000 and over	5,996	1,416	2,666	362	5,998	1,859	2,643	288
Independent student income								
Less than $5,000	8,901	1,268	4,157	478	6,685	1,740	3,129	368
$5,000–$9,999	9,090	1,284	4,217	442	6,781	1,966	3,066	384
$10,000–$19,999	9,970	992	4,874	393	6,535	1,964	2,926	334
$20,000–$29,999	12,343	1,001	6,173	472	6,282	1,922	2,795	338
$30,000–$49,999	14,983	1,054	8,386	409	6,832	2,071	3,070	288
$50,000 and over	1,685	1,097	6,734	445	5,958	1,545	2,886	332
Residence								
On campus	5,670	2,336	2,414	480	6,987	2,588	2,753	416
Off campus	10,013	1,309	4,901	443	6,683	1,989	2,992	364
With parents	5,623	1,262	1,324	402	5,854	1,724	2,490	368

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

Table 3.6b—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average CM budgets for undergraduates with CM budgets at private not-for-profit institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	CM total	CM tuition	CM room & board	CM books
Total	$13,468	$7,060	$3,428	$565	$11,531	$7,035	$2,941	$393
Dependency status								
Dependent	13,076	8,006	2,776	577	12,222	7,808	2,967	398
Independent	14,537	4,830	5,209	534	9,943	5,243	2,887	382
Dependent student income								
Less than $10,000	11,902	6,381	2,572	530	10,725	6,503	2,686	438
$10,000-$19,999	12,269	6,888	2,612	549	11,107	6,819	2,770	401
$20,000-$29,999	12,501	7,559	2,686	526	11,805	7,320	2,995	386
$30,000-$39,999	12,540	8,146	2,573	579	12,318	7,890	3,008	403
$40,000-$49,999	13,448	8,758	2,808	580	12,905	8,502	3,032	395
$50,000-$59,999	13,895	9,122	2,969	603	13,309	8,906	2,991	383
$60,000-$69,999	13,937	9,407	2,847	639	13,544	9,006	3,188	364
$70,000-$79,999	14,928	9,811	3,320	608	14,059	9,288	3,445	374
$80,000-$99,999	15,371	9,940	3,473	771	14,559	9,683	3,458	374
$100,000 and over	15,624	9,913	3,409	615	13,480	8,915	3,183	381
Independent student income								
Less than $5,000	12,896	5,398	3,621	537	10,329	5,661	2,858	417
$5,000-$9,999	12,672	5,005	3,896	577	10,379	5,381	3,080	407
$10,000-$19,999	13,713	4,440	4,858	456	9,450	4,897	2,806	343
$20,000-$29,999	16,478	4,008	7,033	506	9,252	4,645	2,786	370
$30,000-$49,999	19,480	4,701	8,563	631	10,105	5,443	2,813	356
$50,000 and over	20,710	5,172	9,908	553	9,334	4,927	3,033	333
Residence								
On campus	12,911	8,743	2,945	591	13,024	8,494	3,177	374
Off campus	15,860	5,682	5,459	560	10,644	5,926	2,969	390
With parents	10,914	5,290	1,298	499	9,439	5,368	2,354	442

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Table 3.6c—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average CM budgets for undergraduates with CM budgets at private for-profit institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	CM total	CM tuition	CM room & board	CM books
Total	$11,410	$4,794	$3,271	$335	$9,746	$4,555	$3,000	$353
Dependency status								
Dependent	9,108	4,861	1,603	401	9,896	4,856	2,798	402
Independent	12,557	4,773	4,099	304	9,722	4,465	3,082	334
Dependent student income								
Less than $10,000	8,293	4,671	1,451	326	9,694	4,769	2,843	368
$10,000–$19,999	8,929	4,732	1,536	367	9,358	4,634	2,630	386
$20,000–$29,999	9,775	5,116	1,882	338	9,651	4,897	2,676	364
$30,000–$39,999	8,821	4,810	1,339	444	10,466	5,014	2,838	457
$40,000–$49,999	9,164	4,847	1,593	572	10,483	5,043	2,936	464
$50,000–$59,999	9,753	5,020	1,683	463	11,010	5,371	2,894	462
$60,000–$69,999	—	5,633	—	—	9,364	4,334	2,977	413
$70,000–$79,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
$80,000–$99,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
$100,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Independent student income								
Less than $5,000	10,406	4,750	2,947	248	9,595	4,564	2,966	317
$5,000–$9,999	12,332	4,863	3,688	341	9,971	4,534	3,145	330
$10,000–$19,999	12,792	4,757	4,099	350	9,643	4,321	3,122	348
$20,000–$29,999	15,430	4,663	6,191	289	9,916	4,424	3,181	361
$30,000–$49,999	17,679	4,692	7,363	293	9,410	4,117	3,303	332
$50,000 and over	—	5,185	—	—	9,926	4,588	2,971	453
Residence								
On campus	8,086	5,169	1,736	404	12,108	6,117	3,363	377
Off campus	13,100	4,829	4,553	341	9,743	4,529	3,066	343
With parents	8,857	4,679	1,192	314	9,481	4,430	2,824	370

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

A comparison of student-reported costs and the CM budget at public institutions shows mixed patterns by cost component across student characteristics. First, tuition[17] was almost uniformly lower than the CM tuition measure across student characteristics. Second, student-reported room and board costs were lower than the CM measure for dependent students, but were higher for independent students. Finally, student-reported total cost was less than the CM measure for those students who lived on campus, greater for those who lived off campus, and the same for those who lived with their parents.

At private not-for-profit institutions, the average student-reported total cost and room and board costs were higher than the corresponding CM budgets for independent students. For example, the average student-reported total cost for independent students was $14,537, compared with the average CM budget of $9,943 (table 3.6b).

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[17] Tuition costs included here come from the institution record abstract form and are the amount the student actually paid. Other parts are student reports.

The comparison of student-reported costs and CM budgets for students who attended private, for-profit institutions shows a mixture of patterns similar to private not-for-profit institutions. Average student-reported total costs were higher than the average CM budget for independent students, but not for dependent students (indep: $12,557 vs. $9,722) (table 3.6c). The two tuition measures were similar for all students, but average student-reported room and board costs were higher than the CM measure.

The comparison of student-reported costs with Pell budgets focuses only on the tuition amounts. Allowable living costs in the Pell program make most comparisons with student-reported living costs unrealistic.

In general, the average student-reported costs reported for tuition were similar to the average Pell budget amount at private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions (tables 3.6d–f). At public institutions, however, average Pell budget amounts for tuition were higher than the average student-reported amounts across several student characteristics. For example, the average Pell budget amount for tuition at public institutions was $1,981, compared with the actual average amount of $1,522 (table 3.6d). Also, the average Pell budget tuition amounts for dependent and independent students were $2,188 and $1,757, respectively, compared with the actual amounts of $1,795 and $1,226.

Table 3.6d—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average Pell budgets for undergraduates with Pell budgets at public institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	Pell tuition	Pell room & board
Total	$8,297	$1,522	$3,493	$470	$1,981	$1,448
Dependency status						
Dependent	6,415	1,795	2,376	459	2,188	1,492
Independent	10,553	1,226	5,050	482	1,757	1,405
Dependent student income						
Less than $10,000	6,429	1,553	2,397	467	1,953	1,480
$10,000-$19,999	6,207	1,580	2,220	448	2,080	1,442
$20,000-$29,999	6,381	1,824	2,330	453	2,119	1,502
$30,000-$39,999	6,451	1,989	2,433	429	2,363	1,550
$40,000-$49,999	6,264	1,957	2,300	493	2,347	1,478
$50,000-$59,999	6,383	2,241	2,426	469	2,690	1,490
$60,000-$69,999	7,666	2,369	2,878	488	2,761	1,506
$70,000-$79,999	—	2,697	—	—	2,965	—
$80,000-$99,999	—	—	—	—	—	—
$100,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Independent student income						
Less than $5,000	8,892	1,305	4,064	481	1,711	1,375
$5,000-$9,999	9,487	1,289	4,273	463	1,726	1,484
$10,000-$19,999	11,286	1,075	5,552	476	1,754	1,375
$20,000-$29,999	13,773	1,071	6,934	519	1,690	1,476
$30,000-$49,999	16,177	1,274	8,787	475	2,038	1,170
$50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Residence						
On campus	5,469	2,187	2,376	473	2,517	1,650
Off campus	10,451	1,353	5,021	487	1,868	1,480
With parents	5,932	1,334	1,443	427	1,781	1,130

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Table 3.6e—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average Pell budgets for undergraduates with Pell budgets at private not-for-profit institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	Pell tuition	Pell room & board
Total	$12,944	$6,574	$3,379	$523	$6,808	$1,371
Dependency status						
Dependent	12,285	7,367	2,647	524	7,378	1,384
Independent	14,479	4,915	5,083	521	5,618	1,344
Dependent student income						
Less than $10,000	11,605	6,296	2,600	505	6,445	1,280
$10,000–$19,999	11,912	6,478	2,616	529	6,519	1,359
$20,000–$29,999	12,007	7,196	2,582	500	7,016	1,480
$30,000–$39,999	11,873	7,774	2,451	526	7,877	1,466
$40,000–$49,999	12,964	8,365	2,811	565	8,325	1,438
$50,000–$59,999	13,271	8,855	2,712	533	8,845	1,353
$60,000–$69,999	13,422	9,185	2,726	546	9,013	1,414
$70,000–$79,999	13,655	8,984	3,050	508	8,537	1,419
$80,000–$99,999	13,281	8,492	3,199	570	8,626	1,336
$100,000 and over	15,362	9,887	3,160	518	10,069	1,127
Independent student income						
Less than $5,000	12,740	5,368	3,711	501	5,753	1,452
$5,000–$9,999	12,757	5,001	3,983	577	5,479	1,306
$10,000–$19,999	14,773	4,531	5,496	473	5,600	1,150
$20,000–$29,999	17,560	4,188	7,224	507	5,365	1,339
$30,000–$49,999	20,126	4,583	9,035	580	5,848	1,535
$50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Residence						
On campus	12,203	8,202	2,837	540	8,040	1,597
Off campus	15,282	5,410	5,259	529	5,972	1,398
With parents	10,496	4,930	1,262	462	5,495	747

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Table 3.6f—Average student-reported total costs of attendance and average Pell budgets for undergraduates with Pell budgets at private for-profit institutions, by cost component and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Total cost	Tuition	Room & board	Books & supplies	Pell tuition	Pell room & board
Total	$11,451	$4,784	$3,369	$342	$4,533	$909
Dependency status						
Dependent	9,241	4,958	1,566	429	4,844	802
Independent	12,364	4,727	4,114	307	4,432	942
Dependent student income						
Less than $10,000	8,243	4,813	1,325	318	4,622	765
$10,000-$19,999	9,045	4,823	1,537	476	4,534	850
$20,000-$29,999	10,443	5,429	1,927	366	4,838	930
$30,000-$39,999	9,161	4,800	1,280	553	5,172	817
$40,000-$49,999	9,791	5,066	1,718	668	5,601	734
$50,000-$59,999	—	4,837	—	330	5,445	699
$60,000-$69,999	—	—	—	—	—	—
$70,000-$79,999	—	—	—	—	—	—
$80,000-$99,999	—	—	—	—	—	—
$100,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Independent student income						
Less than $5,000	10,539	4,701	3,108	249	4,295	908
$5,000-$9,999	12,122	4,800	3,703	341	4,537	888
$10,000-$19,999	13,170	4,709	4,509	356	4,401	1,029
$20,000-$29,999	15,223	4,728	6,101	316	4,522	965
$30,000-$49,999	17,242	4,511	7,645	286	4,642	1,164
$50,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Residence						
On campus	8,002	5,098	1,636	426	6,360	688
Off campus	12,875	4,785	4,554	338	4,539	960
With parents	9,064	4,748	1,232	338	4,334	806

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Chapter 4

Federal Financial Aid to Undergraduates

The major federal financial aid programs were authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and are administered by the Department of Education. There are essentially three types of federal financial aid programs in which aid is awarded to undergraduates: grant, work, and loan programs. It is estimated that the federal government expended about $21 billion in financial aid to postsecondary students in 1989-90.[18] Financially needy undergraduate students who attend at least half time and are either citizens or eligible noncitizens are able to participate in all of the Title IV programs and most of the other federal programs.

There are nine financial aid programs under Title IV that award grants, loans, or earnings to postsecondary students, the major ones being the Pell Grant program, the Stafford loan program, and the College Work-Study program. These three programs accounted for almost $15 billion, or more than 70 percent of the total amount of federal financial aid in 1989-90.[19]

Most federal financial aid is awarded based upon a student's financial need. For some federal programs, such as the Pell grant program, there is a formula that determines whether a student is eligible for a Pell grant and if eligible, the amount of the grant. Other programs are administered at the institution and whether a student receives federal aid is at the discretion of the financial aid administrator.

This chapter describes the recipients of federal financial aid and the amount of federal aid they received. The proportions of students who received aid and the amounts they received vary across institutional and student characteristics. The chapter begins with a description of which students in the entire undergraduate population received federal aid, and then focuses on the population of undergraduates who are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs and the amounts they received.

Undergraduates Receiving Federal Financial Aid

All else being equal, because federal aid is based upon the amount of financial need (and need, in part, depends on costs), the proportions of students who received federal financial aid were higher at private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions than at public institutions. Students who had lower incomes were also more likely to receive federal aid.

About 29 percent of all undergraduates received federal financial aid (table 4.1). About 21 percent received federal grant aid, 18 percent a federal loan, 5 percent federal work-study, and 1 percent received other kinds of federal aid (figure 4.1).[20] The receipt of federal aid varied by type of institution. For example, a higher proportion of students at proprietary institutions received federal aid (75 percent) than at private not-for-profit institutions (41 percent), which was in turn higher than at public institutions (22 percent). This same pattern was true for grants and for loans, but not for work-study. Fourteen percent of students at private not-for-profit institutions received work-study, compared with 3 percent of the students at public institutions and 1 percent of the students at proprietary institutions. The low proportion of students at proprietary institutions receiving work-study is largely due to the fact that few proprietary institutions participated in the College Work-Study program.

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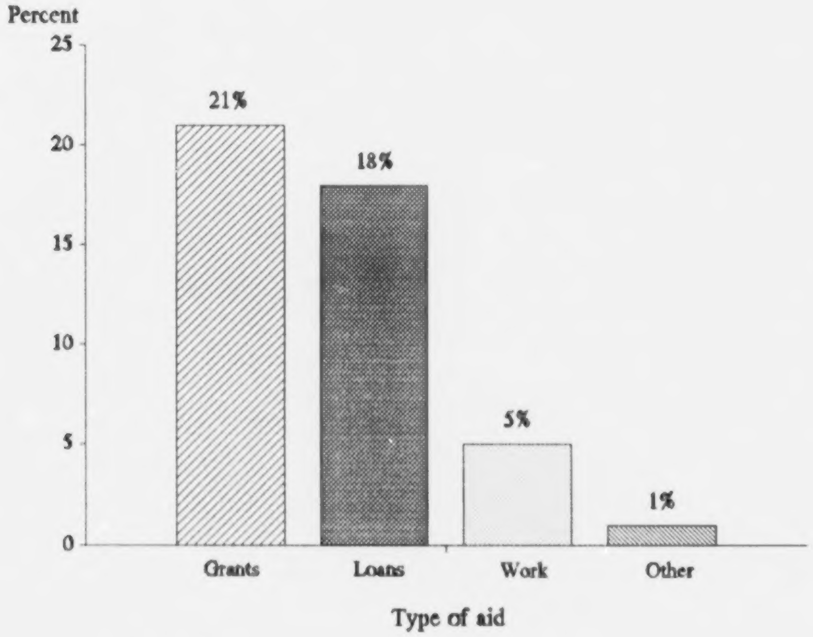
[18] Washington Office of the College Board, *Trends in Student Aid: 1981-1991* (New York: College Entrance Examination Board), 1991; 1.
[19] Ibid.

Figure 4.1—Percentage of undergraduates receiving federal financial aid, by type of aid: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

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[20] Other kinds of federal aid include scholarships and aid that could not be classified.

Table 4.1—Percentage of undergraduates receiving federal aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	29.2	21.3	17.9	4.8	1.0
Control of institution					
Public	21.5	16.7	10.8	3.4	0.9
Private not-for-profit	41.3	25.7	30.5	13.8	1.3
Private for-profit	74.8	53.8	57.7	0.9	1.6
Dependency status					
Dependent	29.1	18.8	18.3	7.2	0.8
Independent	29.4	23.7	17.6	2.7	1.2
Gender					
Male	25.3	17.6	16.3	4.4	0.9
Female	30.3	22.5	18.0	5.3	1.1
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	65.7	61.9	31.0	14.3	2.5
$10,000–19,999	46.3	39.5	27.3	11.2	0.8
$20,000–29,999	38.1	26.0	26.3	10.6	1.0
$30,000–39,999	26.6	12.3	20.6	7.3	0.6
$40,000–49,999	20.7	4.7	15.9	5.3	0.4
$50,000–59,999	17.1	2.6	12.2	4.5	0.7
$60,000–69,999	10.5	1.5	7.2	2.5	0.7
$70,000–79,999	9.0	0.7	6.9	2.0	0.2
$80,000–99,999	6.4	0.9	3.7	1.1	0.0
$100,000 or more	3.1	0.7	2.0	0.4	0.1
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	56.6	51.7	31.6	6.7	1.9
$5,000–9,999	44.7	40.0	26.3	3.7	1.6
$10,000–19,999	27.7	19.7	17.1	2.2	1.2
$20,000–29,999	18.9	13.5	11.8	1.5	1.0
$30,000–49,999	8.9	3.7	6.8	0.5	0.8
$50,000 or more	4.8	2.3	3.2	0.1	0.3

Table 4.1—Percentage of undergraduates receiving federal aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Institution level and control					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	19.9	14.3	7.9	0.7	4.5
2- to 3-year	15.2	13.2	4.4	1.8	1.0
4-year non-doctoral	29.8	22.6	17.2	5.6	0.6
4-year doctoral	29.6	20.5	20.7	5.5	0.8
Private not-for-profit					
Less than 2-year	45.3	30.9	16.1	7.2	15.3
2- to 3-year	39.0	29.3	21.9	7.0	1.0
4-year non-doctoral	43.2	27.4	32.3	14.7	0.7
4-year doctoral	38.3	21.5	30.5	14.4	1.2
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	76.7	56.4	58.0	0.7	1.8
2-year or more	71.1	48.9	56.9	1.4	1.3
Undergraduate level					
First year	29.1	21.7	16.8	3.6	1.2
Second year	27.7	21.0	15.8	5.4	1.0
Third year	31.8	21.4	22.1	7.0	0.7
Fourth year	30.3	20.9	22.3	6.7	0.9
Fifth year/not graduate	25.6	17.7	18.1	3.3	0.6
Race-ethnicity					
American Indian	34.8	29.7	14.8	5.1	4.8
Asian	25.7	20.1	13.3	6.0	1.5
Black, non-Hispanic	49.7	41.0	28.2	7.5	1.4
Hispanic	40.1	33.9	18.6	5.4	1.1
White, non-Hispanic	25.3	17.3	16.7	4.3	0.9
Residence					
On campus	41.3	24.9	30.8	15.7	0.9
Off campus	27.5	21.0	17.1	3.1	1.1
With parents	26.1	19.9	12.6	2.5	1.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

The proportions of undergraduates who received federal aid also varied by students' income, declining as income increased. For example, about 66 percent of dependent students with an annual family income of less than $10,000 received federal aid, while 27 percent of students with a family income of between $30,000 and $39,999 received federal aid. Only 3 percent of dependent students with a family income of $100,000 or more received any federal aid. The proportion of independent students who received federal aid declined steadily as income increased. About 57 percent of students with incomes of less than $5,000 a year received federal aid, while 5 percent of students with incomes of $50,000 or more received federal aid.

The residence of a student was also an important factor that affected whether or not a student received federal aid. Higher proportions of undergraduates who lived on campus (41 percent) received aid than either those who lived off campus (28 percent), or those who lived with their parents (26 percent). The receipt of federal aid also varied by other student characteristics such as race-ethnicity and year in school. Black and Hispanic students were more likely than white students to receive federal grant aid (41 percent and 34 percent, compared with 17 percent). Blacks were also more likely than whites to receive federal loans (28 percent compared with 17 percent). Also, 22 percent of fourth-year students received federal loans, while 17 percent of first-year students did so. It is the policy of some institutions to try to avoid awarding loans to first-year students.

Federal Financial Aid by Attendance Status

The receipt of federal financial aid and the amount of aid awarded is dependent upon the attendance status in two ways. First, the cost of attendance may be less for a part-time than for a full-time student because tuition may be lower. Second, a student must be enrolled at least half time in order to participate in federal aid programs. As a result, the percentages of students receiving federal aid and the amount of aid they receive are different depending upon whether the student attends full time or part time. One way to examine the effects of attendance is to look at those students who attended full time for the full year and compare them with all other undergraduates.

Undergraduates who attended full time for the full year were twice as likely to receive federal aid as were all other undergraduates (40 percent compared with 19 percent) (table 4.2). Full-time/full-year students also received more federal aid than did all other undergraduates, on average. Full-time/full-year students received an average of $3,486, compared with all other undergraduates who received an average of $2,649.

Similar to all undergraduates, the proportions of students who received federal aid varied across types of institutions. For example, 78 percent of full-time/full-year students who attended proprietary institutions received federal aid, compared with 34 percent at public institutions. Sixty-eight percent of all other undergraduates who attended proprietary institutions received federal aid, compared with 14 percent at public institutions.

For both dependent and independent students in each attendance category, the proportion of students who received federal aid generally declined as income increased. For example, 83 percent of full-time/full-year students with an annual family income of less than $10,000 received federal aid, compared with 33 percent of those with a family income between $30,000 and $39,999 and 4 percent of students with a family income of $100,000 or more. Sixty-eight percent of full-time/full-year independent students with an annual income of less than $5,000 received federal aid, while 19 percent of those with incomes of $50,000 or more received aid.

In addition to income, the proportion of full-time/full-year students receiving federal aid also varied by dependency status and residence. Higher proportions of full-time/full-year independent students received federal aid than dependent students (60 percent compared with 35 percent). Independent students also received higher average amounts of federal aid than dependent students. Independent students received an average of $3,890 in federal aid, compared

Table 4.2—Percentage and average amount of federal aid received by undergraduates, by attendance status, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Full-time/Full-year		All other undergraduates	
	Percent	Average amount	Percent	Average amount
Total	40.4	$3,486	19.2	$2,649
Control of institution				
Public	34.4	2,991	14.3	2,180
Private not-for-profit	50.3	4,174	27.7	3,283
Private for-profit	78.4	4,402	68.2	3,502
Dependency status				
Dependent	34.5	3,272	20.0	2,500
Independent	60.3	3,890	18.9	2,737
Gender				
Male	36.8	3,527	16.3	2,786
Female	43.7	3,452	20.9	2,592
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	82.6	3,443	55.5	2,281
$10,000-19,999	63.8	3,500	29.9	2,608
$20,000-29,999	51.8	3,220	24.3	2,519
$30,000-39,999	33.2	3,089	18.1	2,476
$40,000-49,999	25.8	3,013	13.6	2,650
$50,000-59,999	20.8	3,157	12.1	2,642
$60,000-69,999	13.5	3,253	5.8	3,168
$70,000-79,999	12.3	3,207	6.0	2,929
$80,000-99,999	7.6	3,156	3.8	2,956
$100,000 or more	3.9	3,354	1.2	—
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	67.5	4,067	43.5	2,988
$5,000-9,999	65.0	4,093	32.8	2,639
$10,000-19,999	57.4	3,735	18.4	2,658
$20,000-29,999	60.0	3,420	12.3	2,544
$30,000-49,999	40.0	3,342	6.0	2,623
$50,000 or more	18.8	—	2.5	2,538

Table 4.2—Percentage and average amount of federal aid received by undergraduates, by attendance status, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Full-time/Full-year		All other undergraduates	
	Percent	Average amount	Percent	Average amount
Institution level and control				
Public				
Less-than-2-year	48.7	2,657	11.1	1,887
2- to 3-year	32.5	2,320	11.0	1,694
4-year non-doctoral	36.5	3,022	20.9	2,503
4-year doctoral	33.8	3,384	23.1	2,901
Private				
Less-than-2-year	53.8	—	42.4	3,534
2- to 3-year	48.0	3,486	29.5	2,261
4-year non-doctoral	55.6	4,076	26.9	3,217
4-year doctoral	42.7	4,488	27.3	3,770
Private for-profit				
Less-than-2-year	77.1	4,560	69.9	3,659
2-year or more	79.3	4,296	65.2	3,193
Undergraduate level				
First year	40.5	3,300	19.2	2,506
Second year	40.8	3,178	17.9	2,456
Third year	40.1	3,776	21.9	3,079
Fourth year	39.4	4,046	20.5	3,246
Fifth year/not graduate	57.6	4,056	15.2	2,920
Race-ethnicity				
American Indian	54.3	3,430	19.7	2,905
Asian	37.0	3,596	16.3	2,699
Black, non-Hispanic	65.1	3,615	36.3	2,632
Hispanic	54.4	3,345	22.8	2,584
White, non-Hispanic	37.4	3,472	16.8	2,657
Residence				
On campus	42.0	3,656	38.6	3,162
Off campus	45.8	3,697	17.8	2,757
With parents	30.9	2,740	18.5	2,204
Age as of 12/31/89				
16–23 years	36.4	3,349	22.3	2,604
24–29 years	63.1	4,057	21.2	2,793
30–39 years	63.8	3,824	16.0	2,793
40 years or older	53.0	3,567	8.8	2,339

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

NOTE: Average amount based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

with $3,272 for dependent students. Full-time/full-year students who lived with their parents were less likely to receive federal aid (31 percent) than those students who either lived on campus (42 percent) or off campus (46 percent).

Eligible Undergraduates Receiving Federal Financial Aid by Student Characteristics

While it is useful to know the percentage of all undergraduate students who received federal financial aid, not all undergraduate students are eligible to receive federal aid.[21] As discussed in Chapters 2 and 3, students must attend a postsecondary institution at least half time and be either a citizen or an eligible noncitizen in order to participate in a federal financial aid program. This section describes the distribution of federal aid among undergraduate students who were eligible to receive aid.

Restricting the population under discussion to those who can participate in federal aid programs means that the overall percentage of students who received federal aid will increase; thus, particular categories of students were more likely than others to receive federal aid. For example, 38 percent of eligible undergraduates received federal aid, compared with 29 percent of all undergraduates (table 4.3). In addition, 28 percent of eligible undergraduates received federal grants, 24 percent received loans, and 7 percent work-study.

Most of the patterns for the receipt of federal aid discussed above that were true for all undergraduates hold true for eligible undergraduates. For example, the proportions of students receiving federal aid at proprietary institutions were higher than those at either private not-for-profit or public institutions. Also, higher proportions of eligible students with low incomes tended to receive federal aid than did students with higher incomes.

One notable exception is the proportion of students receiving federal aid by dependency status. When all undergraduates were considered, the same proportion of dependent and independent students (29 percent) received aid. Among eligible students, higher proportions of independent students (45 percent) received federal aid than did dependent students (32 percent)(table 4.3). Higher proportions of independent students also received federal grants than did dependent students (37 percent for independent, 21 percent for dependent).

Chapters 2 and 3 discussed the fact that federal financial aid is need-based. That is, to be awarded aid, students' expected financial resources must be less than the expected cost of attendance. The difference between cost of attendance and the amount of financial resources is the amount of a student's need. Financial aid is awarded to students in order to narrow or eliminate that difference.

A portion of the total financial aid awarded may be at the discretion of the financial aid administrator. The financial aid administrator "packages" aid from several programs so that they are combined into a total award. The ways in which aid packages are constructed are different for every institution. For example, one institution may not allow first-year students to receive

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[21] Approximately 71 percent of undergraduates meet the eligibility requirements for federal financial aid discussed in this report.

Table 4.3—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	37.8	27.5	23.9	6.6	1.1
Control of institution					
Public	29.0	22.6	14.9	4.8	1.0
Private not-for-profit	48.8	30.2	36.5	16.8	1.4
Private for-profit	80.7	58.1	64.9	1.0	1.8
Dependency status					
Dependent	32.2	20.8	20.9	8.2	0.7
Independent	45.2	36.7	27.9	4.4	1.7
Gender					
Male	32.7	22.6	21.6	5.9	1.0
Female	39.4	29.3	24.1	7.3	1.2
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	72.3	68.1	35.6	16.2	1.6
$10,000-19,999	52.9	45.2	32.0	13.0	1.0
$20,000-29,999	43.5	29.5	30.2	12.4	1.1
$30,000-39,999	30.0	13.8	23.4	8.5	0.7
$40,000-49,999	22.9	5.1	17.9	6.1	0.4
$50,000-59,999	17.9	2.3	13.7	5.1	0.3
$60,000-69,999	11.2	1.2	8.0	2.8	0.3
$70,000-79,999	10.2	0.8	7.7	2.4	0.2
$80,000-99,999	7.3	1.1	4.3	1.3	0.1
$100,000 or more	3.5	0.8	2.2	0.5	0.1
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	66.3	61.0	38.0	8.3	2.0
$5,000-9,999	55.9	49.8	34.5	5.1	1.8
$10,000-19,999	41.4	29.3	26.1	3.4	1.8
$20,000-29,999	34.5	25.2	22.1	2.8	1.9
$30,000-49,999	18.8	7.5	15.1	1.0	1.0
$50,000 or more	10.9	5.5	7.2	0.2	0.6

Table 4.3—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

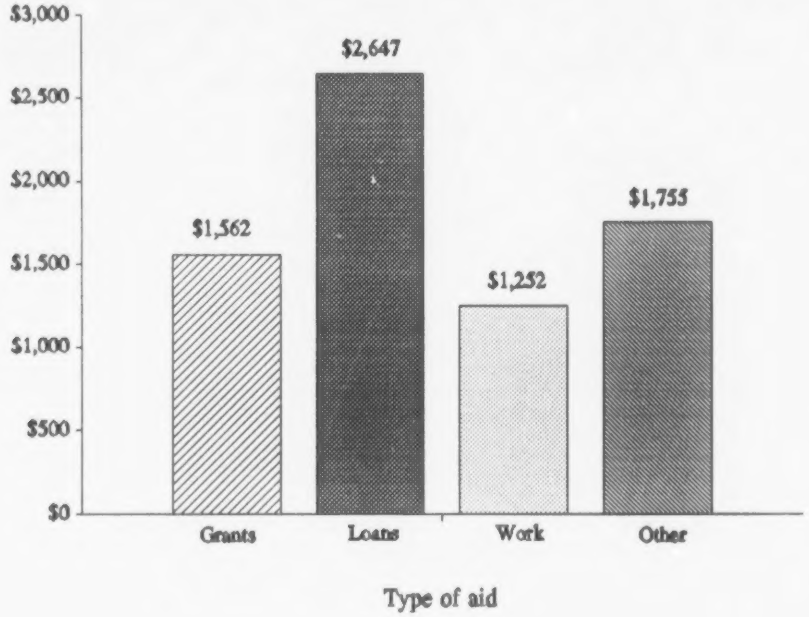
	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Institution level and control					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	26.3	18.9	11.2	1.0	5.7
2- to 3-year	23.4	20.7	6.7	3.1	1.0
4-year non-doctoral	34.6	26.2	20.1	6.7	0.6
4-year doctoral	33.1	22.8	23.3	6.2	0.8
Private not-for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	51.9	34.6	21.0	7.8	18.1
2- to 3-year	50.1	37.3	29.1	9.5	0.9
4-year non-doctoral	51.7	32.8	39.1	18.2	0.8
4-year doctoral	43.5	24.3	35.0	16.7	1.3
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	82.1	60.5	65.2	0.8	2.0
2-year or more	77.9	53.3	64.4	1.5	1.4
Undergraduate level					
First year	39.6	29.5	23.8	5.2	1.5
Second year	35.1	26.5	20.5	7.3	0.8
Third year	38.0	25.6	26.8	8.8	0.8
Fourth year	35.7	24.7	26.5	8.0	1.0
Fifth year/not graduate	42.6	29.1	30.6	5.9	1.2
Race–ethnicity					
American Indian	46.7	41.3	20.7	7.3	5.6
Asian	34.9	26.8	19.3	9.4	1.5
Black, non-Hispanic	61.3	50.9	36.0	9.4	1.4
Hispanic	51.2	43.3	24.3	7.2	1.3
White, non-Hispanic	33.1	22.5	22.4	5.9	1.0
Residence					
On campus	43.4	26.1	32.6	16.7	0.9
Off campus	40.0	30.7	25.7	4.7	1.4
With parents	30.4	23.3	15.2	3.1	0.8
Age as of 12/31/89					
16–23 years	34.4	23.3	22.2	8.0	0.7
24–29 years	45.8	36.6	29.3	4.4	2.1
30–39 years	40.3	32.3	23.9	3.9	1.7
40 years or older	29.7	24.3	14.9	3.2	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

loan aid, or work aid, but rather concentrates that aid on third- and fourth-year students. The differences in the average amounts of federal aid reflect not only the differences in the level of need, but also to some extent, the ways in which aid is awarded to students.

The average amount of federal financial aid awarded to eligible undergraduates was $3,113 (table 4.4). The average amount of federal loans ($2,647) was more than the average grant ($1,562) or work-study award ($1,252) (figure 4.2). The average amount of federal aid was higher at private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions than at public institutions. The average was $3,772 at private not-for-profit, $3,758 at proprietary, and $2,585 at public institutions. The same pattern held for grants and loans. The largest difference among the three institutional categories was that between the average amount of loans at proprietary and public institutions ($3,020 and $2,254, respectively).

Figure 4.2—Average amount of federal aid to eligible undergraduates receiving aid, by type of aid: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 4.4—Average amount of federal aid to eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid, by type of aid and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	$3,113	$1,562	$2,647	$1,252	$1,755
Control of institution					
Public	2,585	1,486	2,254	1,307	1,200
Private not-for-profit	3,772	1,778	2,917	1,169	2,401
Private for-profit	3,758	1,576	3,020	1,835	2,975
Dependency status					
Dependent	2,997	1,535	2,348	1,180	1,580
Independent	3,224	1,583	2,943	1,432	1,841
Gender					
Male	3,209	1,565	2,691	1,249	2,062
Female	3,043	1,574	2,582	1,261	1,462
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	3,011	1,769	2,244	1,195	1,479
$10,000–19,999	3,149	1,656	2,378	1,187	—
$20,000–29,999	2,956	1,290	2,416	1,201	1,865
$30,000–39,999	2,825	1,067	2,293	1,161	—
$40,000–49,999	2,911	954	2,344	1,140	—
$50,000–59,999	3,049	1,133	2,395	1,135	—
$60,000–69,999	3,065	1,039	2,482	1,131	—
$70,000–79,999	3,161	—	2,529	1,298	—
$80,000–99,999	3,079	—	2,577	1,237	—
$100,000 or more	3,171	—	2,700	—	—
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	3,404	1,761	2,890	1,444	1,483
$5,000–9,999	3,257	1,559	2,841	1,457	1,332
$10,000–19,999	3,085	1,503	3,009	1,440	2,029
$20,000–29,999	2,978	1,168	3,108	1,350	2,597
$30,000–49,999	3,046	1,241	3,045	—	2,594
$50,000 or more	2,874	1,486	3,138	—	—

Table 4.4—Average amount of federal aid to eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid, by type of aid and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All federal aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Institution level and control					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	2,290	1,395	2,512	—	1,069
2- to 3-year	1,841	1,278	2,015	1,317	834
4-year non-doctoral	2,764	1,616	2,130	1,183	1,510
4-year doctoral	3,228	1,656	2,424	1,405	1,740
Private not-for-profit					
Less than 2-year	3,868	1,754	4,173	—	2,738
2- to 3-year	2,792	1,542	2,384	949	—
4-year non-doctoral	3,684	1,730	2,827	1,070	2,195
4-year doctoral	4,168	1,961	3,118	1,389	2,441
Private for-profit					
Less than 2-year	3,821	1,586	3,112	1,750	3,092
2-year or more	3,625	1,554	2,835	1,921	2,650
Undergraduate level					
First year	2,965	1,489	2,640	1,161	1,690
Second year	2,846	1,547	2,342	1,284	1,677
Third year	3,486	1,722	2,748	1,347	1,626
Fourth year	3,707	1,715	2,962	1,300	2,263
Fifth year/not graduate	3,486	1,693	2,825	1,247	—
Race–ethnicity					
American Indian	3,302	1,644	3,100	1,179	—
Asian	3,283	1,724	2,835	1,489	—
Black,non-Hispanic	3,136	1,630	2,632	1,390	1,544
Hispanic	2,890	1,671	2,706	1,164	2,424
White,non-Hispanic	3,133	1,506	2,630	1,214	1,620
Residence					
On campus	3,506	1,745	2,456	1,160	2,002
Off campus	3,210	1,554	2,824	1,383	1,844
With parents	2,541	1,449	2,414	1,242	1,311
Age as of 12/31/89					
16–23 years	3,052	1,561	2,433	1,201	1,557
24–29 years	3,317	1,626	2,979	1,423	1,371
30–39 years	3,202	1,569	3,083	1,610	2,059
40 years or older	2,787	1,464	2,913	1,446	1,731

—Sample not sufficient for reliable estimates.

NOTE: Average amount based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The average amounts of federal aid varied by several student characteristics, although the variation differed by type of aid. For example, the average amount of federal aid was higher for eligible independent students than for dependent students ($3,224 compared with $2,997). While this was true for loans and work-study, the average amounts of grants were not significantly different. Also, while the average amount of federal aid did not vary between the bottom and top income categories for both dependent and independent students, the average amount of grant aid declined significantly between those dependent students with an annual family income of less than $10,000 ($1,769) and those with a family income between $60,000 and $69,999 (the highest income category for which there was sufficient data) ($1,039). The lack of a difference in the average amount of total federal aid may be partly explained by the fact that lower income students may attend lower cost institutions, resulting in a lower level of need. The difference in the average amount of grant aid may be partly due to the composition of the financial aid package awarded to the students.

Eligible Undergraduates Receiving Federal Aid by Control and Level of Institution

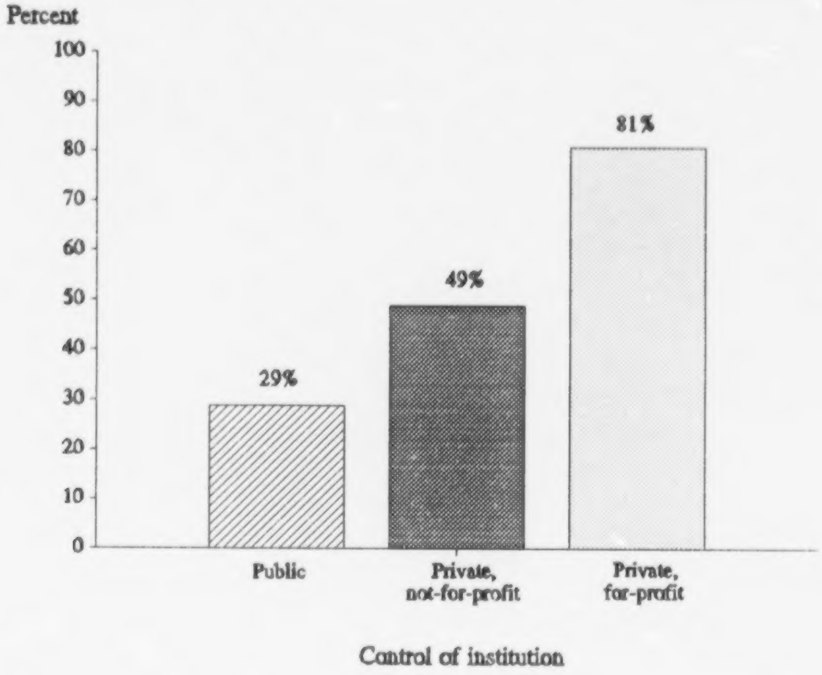
As described above, one essential factor affecting who receives federal aid is the cost of attendance. In chapter 3, the relative cost of institutions by their control and level was discussed. Based solely on cost, one would expect higher percentages of the private not-for-profit and proprietary students to receive federal financial aid. These proportions vary, however, with many other student characteristics. This section first describes the proportions of those undergraduates who were eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs who received federal aid by control and level of institution. Next, it discusses the average amount of federal aid those students received.

Control

As mentioned above, the proportions of students who received federal aid varied by the type of institution they attended. At proprietary institutions, for example, more than 80 percent of eligible undergraduates received federal aid (figure 4.3). The distribution of federal aid recipients, however, was not uniform across institutional control categories. For example, at public and proprietary institutions, higher proportions of independent students received federal aid than did dependent students (35 percent compared with 25 percent at public institutions, and 85 percent compared with 71 percent at proprietary institutions) (table 4.5). There was no significant difference at private not-for-profit institutions.

There was also variation by income category. In every dependent student income category, the proportions of students who received federal aid were higher at private not-for-profit institutions than at public institutions. For example, among students at private not-for-profit institutions, 80 percent of those with an annual family income of less than $10,000 received federal aid, compared with 67 percent at public institutions. The same pattern occurred for independent students. For example, 71 percent of private not-for-profit students with annual incomes of less than $5,000 received federal aid, compared with 56 percent of public institution students. In addition, the proportions of students at proprietary institutions receiving aid were higher than those at private not-for-profit institutions for each income category.

Figure 4.3—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal financial aid, by control of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 4.5—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid, by type of aid and control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	29.0	48.8	80.7	71.4	28.5	42.0	35.4
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	26.3	23.4	34.6	33.1
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	51.9	50.1	51.7	43.5
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	82.1	77.8	78.6	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	24.9	47.6	71.2	62.0	20.7	40.3	31.4
Independent	34.6	52.1	85.1	75.2	34.8	45.6	46.6
Gender							
Male	25.3	45.9	76.3	60.5	22.2	39.1	33.5
Female	31.2	50.6	80.0	72.2	31.4	44.0	36.7
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	66.9	79.5	89.2	86.5	61.5	78.0	72.5
$10,000-19,999	43.9	73.9	78.7	66.7	32.7	66.3	58.5
$20,000-29,999	34.8	65.6	78.0	60.3	26.1	52.1	50.4
$30,000-39,999	22.3	57.0	56.3	43.3	14.0	40.7	33.8
$40,000-49,999	14.1	49.9	61.1	50.8	11.3	30.0	23.6
$50,000-59,999	10.7	38.5	51.4	43.3	2.7	23.7	22.4
$60,000-69,999	6.2	25.5	34.8	14.5	3.8	14.1	13.5
$70,000-79,999	4.5	25.6	—	—	1.8	13.6	11.5
$80,000-99,999	4.7	13.2	—	—	1.5	9.5	8.2
$100,000 or more	2.3	5.4	—	—	2.1	5.4	3.0
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	56.2	71.0	90.4	84.1	59.4	65.5	61.1
$5,000-9,999	44.5	68.4	87.3	84.1	45.2	54.8	55.7
$10,000-19,999	30.5	53.0	83.3	71.4	30.6	45.6	45.6
$20,000-29,999	26.1	38.7	83.1	67.1	26.9	35.5	33.4
$30,000-49,999	12.7	29.2	62.0	37.0	13.2	23.3	21.0
$50,000 or more	6.5	18.3	49.5	40.7	7.0	12.7	8.6

Table 4.5—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal aid, by type of aid and control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989–90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Institution level and control							
Public							
Less-than-2-year	26.3	(*)	(*)	26.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
2- to 3-year	23.4	(*)	(*)	(*)	23.4	(*)	(*)
4-year non-doctoral	34.6	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	34.6	(*)
4-year doctoral	33.1	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	33.1
Private not-for-profit							
Less-than-2-year	(*)	51.9	(*)	51.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
2- to 3-year	(*)	50.1	(*)	(*)	50.1	(*)	(*)
4-year non-doctoral	(*)	51.7	(*)	(*)	(*)	51.7	(*)
4-year doctoral	(*)	43.5	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	43.5
Private for-profit							
Less-than-2-year	(*)	(*)	82.1	82.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
2-year or more	(*)	(*)	77.9	(*)	77.8	78.6	(*)
Undergraduate level							
First year	26.3	48.2	82.1	72.0	29.1	41.4	34.2
Second year	29.4	51.4	70.8	59.6	28.6	45.7	35.9
Third year	33.6	48.2	79.9	—	17.8	41.8	36.8
Fourth year	31.6	46.9	69.6	—	14.7	39.1	34.1
Fifth year/not graduate	38.2	55.5	—	—	—	46.6	51.1
Race–ethnicity							
American Indian	36.6	53.5	93.7	91.5	36.7	44.0	47.1
Asian	28.1	49.3	81.1	72.7	22.5	39.5	40.4
Black, non-Hispanic	50.3	68.6	87.9	82.3	51.6	58.9	62.3
Hispanic	33.7	73.5	84.8	79.1	25.7	66.1	55.9
White, non-Hispanic	26.0	43.9	76.3	63.7	25.6	38.1	31.0
Residence							
On campus	37.4	50.2	73.7	66.2	43.3	48.4	38.2
Off campus	31.6	45.9	82.9	72.7	33.2	39.9	36.1
With parents	21.0	50.6	77.0	68.9	21.2	37.0	29.0
Age as of 12/31/89							
16–23 years	26.8	48.5	75.2	67.0	23.5	41.8	33.2
24–29 years	37.6	53.0	85.2	75.2	37.2	46.4	47.3
30–39 years	31.8	46.4	82.9	69.5	32.7	41.0	43.7
40 years or older	22.2	39.7	70.8	49.1	25.5	32.1	45.5

*The same variable is used for both the column and the row.

—Sample not sufficient for reliable estimates or not applicable.

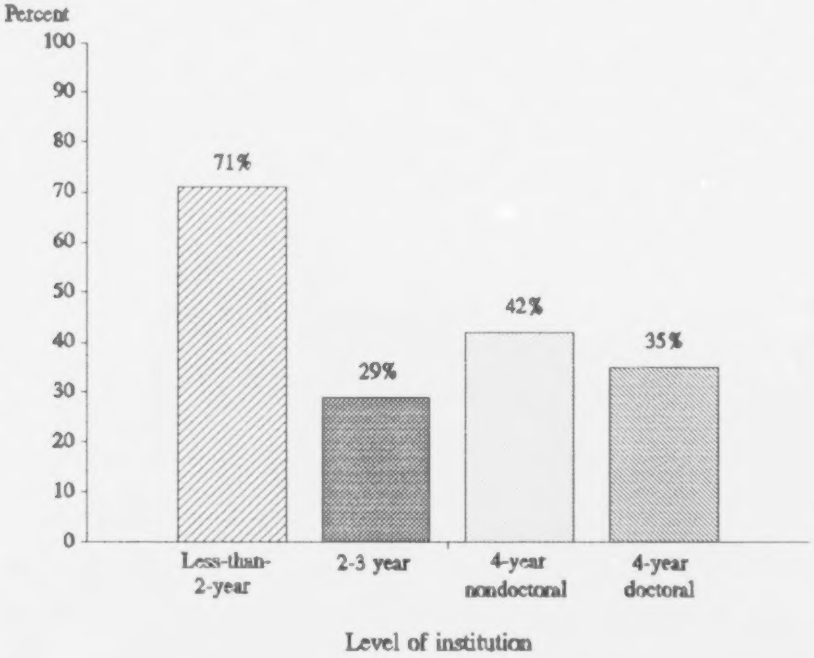
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Finally, there was variation across institutional control categories by student residence. Students who lived with their parents and attended public institutions were the least likely to receive federal aid. For example, 21 percent of those who lived with their parents received aid, while 32 percent of those who lived off campus and 37 percent of those who lived on campus received aid. At proprietary institutions, 83 percent of those who lived off campus received aid, and 77 percent of those who lived with their parents received aid. At private not-for-profit institutions, there were no significant differences by residence.

Level

The same pattern of variation that existed by control category also existed by institutional level. Seventy-one percent of students who attended less-than-2-year institutions received federal aid (figure 4.4). Many of these institutions are proprietary institutions that have a high proportion of students receiving federal aid. At 2- to 3-year institutions, about 29 percent received federal aid. At 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions, 42 percent received federal aid, while at 4-year doctoral-granting institutions, 35 percent did so.

Figure 4.4—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving federal financial aid, by level of institution: AY 1989-90



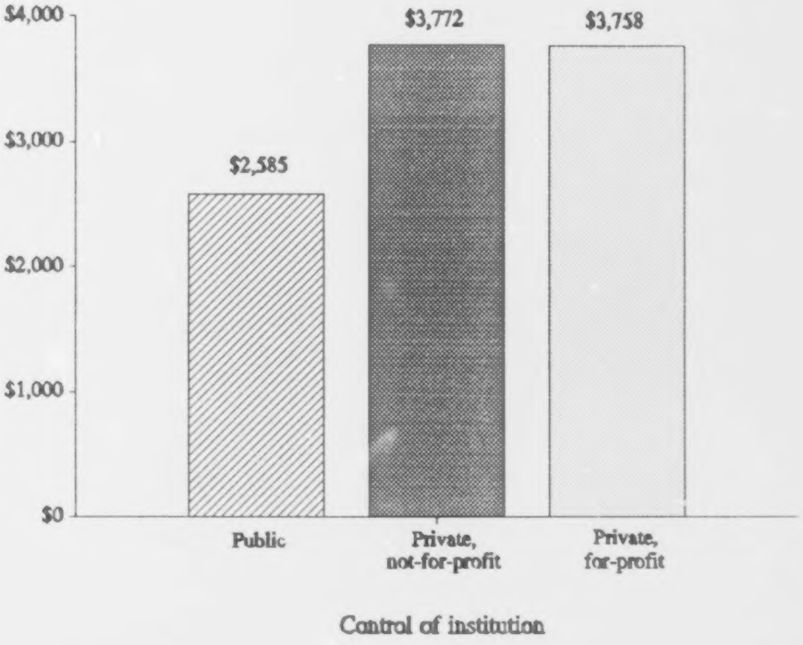
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

The proportions of students who received federal aid also varied in the same pattern across institutional level as they did across control categories. For example, at 4-year doctoral-granting institutions, higher proportions of independent students were federal aid recipients than were dependent students (47 percent compared with 31 percent) (table 4.5). Also, higher proportions of students with low incomes received federal aid than at higher income levels. This pattern generally held true for both dependent and independent students.

Average Amount

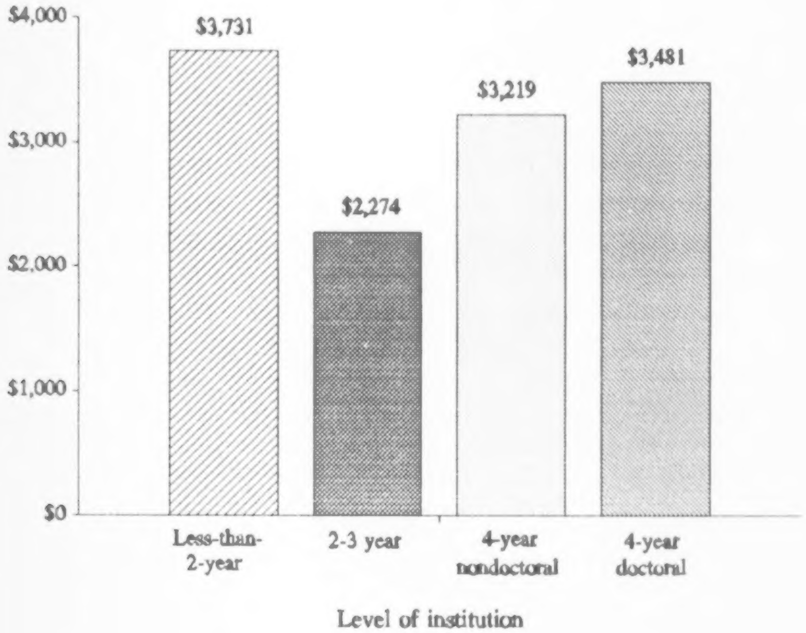
Variations in the average amount of federal aid received by institutional category reflect the relative amounts of need in different institutions (figures 4.5 and 4.6). All else being equal, higher cost institutions, such as private not-for-profit, 4-year, and proprietary institutions, should have higher amounts of need, and thus higher average amounts of aid. The characteristics of the students, however, such as their income, year in school, and dependency status, also affect the average amount of aid.

Figure 4.5—Average amount of federal financial aid received by eligible undergraduates receiving aid, by control of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Figure 4.6—Average amount of federal financial aid received by eligible undergraduates receiving aid, by level of institution: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

For private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions, the average amount of aid that independent students received was the same as that for dependent students (table 4.6). Across levels, independent students received more, on average, in 2- to 3-year, 4-year non-doctoral, and 4-year doctoral-granting institutions (at 2- to 3-year institutions: $2,395 and 2,021; at 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions: $3,396 and 3,119; and at 4-year doctoral-granting institutions: $3,932 compared with 3,239).

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Table 4.6—Average amount of federal aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	$2,585	$3,772	$3,758	$3,731	$2,274	$3,219	$3,481
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,290	1,841	2,764	3,228
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,868	2,792	3,684	4,168
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,821	3,642	3,489	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	2,448	3,728	3,649	3,636	2,021	3,119	3,239
Independent	2,721	3,869	3,796	3,759	2,395	3,396	3,932
Gender							
Male	2,670	3,864	4,062	4,100	2,337	3,228	3,518
Female	2,569	3,773	3,584	3,576	2,243	3,238	3,479
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	2,488	3,934	3,599	3,499	1,815	3,294	3,515
$10,000-19,999	2,604	4,049	3,703	3,650	2,054	3,155	3,698
$20,000-29,999	2,369	3,812	3,866	3,805	2,144	3,143	3,046
$30,000-39,999	2,289	3,607	3,393	3,574	2,165	2,976	2,841
$40,000-49,999	2,240	3,478	3,665	3,946	2,177	2,908	3,039
$50,000-59,999	2,609	3,391	3,516	—	2,947	2,958	3,067
$60,000-69,999	2,453	3,497	—	—	2,552	3,103	3,135
$70,000-79,999	—	3,223	—	—	—	3,042	3,321
$80,000-99,999	—	3,327	—	—	—	3,007	3,229
$100,000 or more	—	3,571	—	—	—	—	3,294
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	2,986	4,289	3,760	3,716	2,533	3,744	4,256
$5,000-9,999	2,752	3,992	3,798	3,710	2,290	3,410	4,080
$10,000-19,999	2,521	3,510	3,837	3,847	2,406	3,145	3,485
$20,000-29,999	2,386	3,532	3,856	3,813	2,182	3,243	3,437
$30,000-49,999	2,508	3,591	3,675	3,804	2,449	3,002	3,688
$50,000 or more	—	3,436	—	—	—	2,736	—

Table 4.6—Average amount of federal aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Institution level and control							
Public							
Less-than-2-year	2,290	(*)	(*)	2,290	(*)	(*)	(*)
2- to 3-year	1,841	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,841	(*)	(*)
4-year non-doctoral	2,764	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,764	(*)
4-year doctoral	3,228	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,228
Private not-for-profit							
Less-than-2-year	(*)	3,868	(*)	3,868	(*)	(*)	(*)
2- to 3-year	(*)	2,792	(*)	(*)	2,792	(*)	(*)
4-year non-doctoral	(*)	3,684	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,684	(*)
4-year doctoral	(*)	4,168	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,168
Private for-profit							
Less-than-2-year	(*)	(*)	3,821	3,821	(*)	(*)	(*)
2-year or more	(*)	(*)	3,625	(*)	3,642	3,489	(*)
Undergraduate level							
First year	2,098	3,428	3,790	3,765	2,255	2,920	3,063
Second year	2,463	3,632	3,389	2,898	2,328	3,141	3,246
Third year	3,074	4,180	4,243	—	1,852	3,454	3,613
Fourth year	3,501	4,108	—	—	—	3,468	3,966
Fifth year/not graduate	3,259	3,829	—	—	—	3,531	3,466
Race–ethnicity							
American Indian	2,539	4,543	4,265	4,246	2,057	3,531	4,155
Asian	2,607	4,690	4,038	4,053	2,024	3,355	3,851
Black,non-Hispanic	2,484	3,902	3,835	3,967	2,110	3,175	3,657
Hispanic	2,298	2,941	3,605	3,489	2,262	2,545	3,105
White,non-Hispanic	2,642	3,863	3,741	3,667	2,341	3,322	3,466
Residence							
On campus	2,940	4,035	4,129	3,963	2,992	3,553	3,513
Off campus	2,766	3,854	3,836	3,802	2,413	3,318	3,666
With parents	1,859	3,024	3,550	3,555	1,877	2,477	2,837
Age as of 12/31/89							
16-23 years	2,511	3,798	3,720	3,741	2,122	3,175	3,322
24-29 years	2,899	4,010	3,945	3,914	2,490	3,366	4,044
30-39 years	2,741	3,853	3,864	3,812	2,422	3,562	4,120
40 years or older	2,197	3,400	3,679	3,589	2,108	3,183	3,704

*The same variable is used in both the column and the row.

—Sample not sufficient for reliable estimate or not applicable.

NOTE: Average amount based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990

At both public and private institutions, the average amount of federal aid that was awarded to first-year students was lower than that for fourth-year students. At public institutions, the average amount for first-year students was $2,098, while for fourth-year students, it was $3,501. At private not-for-profit institutions, the average amount of federal aid awarded for the two groups was $3,428 and $4,108, respectively. This result is consistent with earlier explanations that the category of public first-year students includes many students who attend 2- to 3-year institutions that have substantially lower costs than public 4-year institutions. Also, financial aid packaging policies may affect the amount of federal aid that first-year students receive.

As was discussed in chapter 2, the cost of living for students who reside with their parents is less than that for students who either live on campus or off campus. As a result, students who live with their parents may have less financial need than those with other living arrangements. Table 4.6 shows that at public and private not-for-profit institutions, students who lived with their parents received less federal aid than did students who lived on campus (public: $1,859 compared with $2,940, and private not-for-profit: $3,024 compared with $4,035).

Financial aid from federal sources make up a significant portion of the total amount of financial aid awarded to undergraduates. The proportions of undergraduates who received federal aid varied by institutional characteristics due to the combination of cost of attendance and the characteristics of the students.

Chapter 5

State and Institutional Financial Aid to Undergraduates

Institutions and states are the second and third largest sources of student financial aid, behind the federal government, in terms of amount of financial aid awarded. In 1989–90, institutions provided over $4 billion and states provided about $2 billion in financial aid to students.[22] Much of these funds were awarded to undergraduates. As noted in Chapter 1, this state aid is separate from the direct subsidies that states provide to public institutions.

Each state has its own policies regarding student financial aid. While there are state grant, work-study, and loan programs, not every state has all three types of aid programs. All states have some type of grant program, while fewer states have their own loan or work-study programs. One reason for the prevalence of state grant programs is that the states were encouraged to develop grant programs by the federal government with the help of a federal-state matching program authorized by the Education Amendments of 1972 called the State Student Incentive Grant Program.

States have a wide variety of student aid programs, some of which have specific goals. For example, some states' aid programs target groups of students (e.g., first- or second-year students) or specific types of institutions (e.g., private not-for-profit institutions), or are not based upon financial need.

Institutions have both grant and loan programs, although they are predominantly grant programs, in terms of amounts of money awarded.[23] They also have their own policies for awarding institutional aid. Institutional aid may or may not be based upon financial need, and institutions determine financial need for their programs at their discretion.

The eligibility requirements for institutional and state aid programs can differ from those for federal programs, but many institutions and states use the same need analysis calculation and the same eligibility requirements as the federal government. For most of this chapter, the two federal eligibility requirements of attending at least one-half time and being either a citizen or an eligible noncitizen are used to define the undergraduate population.

This chapter is structured similarly to chapter 4. It begins by describing who received state financial aid in the undergraduate population as a whole, and then focuses on the eligible undergraduate population. The second section describes the characteristics of institutional aid recipients, again, first for the entire undergraduate population, and then for the undergraduates eligible for federal student aid.

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[22] Washington Office of the College Board, *Trends in Student Aid: 1981 to 1991*, College Entrance Examination Board, New York, August 1991. The amounts for state and institutional financial aid include only grant aid. However, since grant programs are overwhelmingly the largest type of state and institutional aid, these figures are good estimates of the total amount of financial aid awarded by these sources.

[23] Institutions also administer work-study and other kinds of programs, but they constitute only a very small proportion of the total aid awarded. For the purposes of this report, all of these programs are included in the Other category.

State Financial Aid to Undergraduates

The smaller total amount of state financial aid is reflected in lower proportions of undergraduates receiving state financial aid than receiving federal aid. About 13 percent of all undergraduate students received some state financial aid (table 5.1), 11 percent received grant aid, 1 percent received loan aid, and less than 1 percent received work-study. Another 2 percent of undergraduates received other state financial aid.[24]

Table 5.1—Percentage of undergraduates receiving state aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	12.8	11.0	0.7	0.2	1.8
Control of institution					
Public	11.0	9.3	0.6	0.3	1.7
Private not-for-profit	23.6	21.4	0.9	0.2	2.5
Private for-profit	8.8	6.9	0.4	0.0	1.7
Dependency status					
Dependent	15.0	13.1	1.1	0.3	1.7
Independent	10.7	8.9	0.3	0.2	1.9
Gender					
Male	11.4	9.6	0.7	0.2	1.6
Female	13.9	12.2	0.7	0.3	1.9
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	29.9	27.5	0.5	0.5	3.5
$10,000-19,999	24.5	22.4	0.6	0.6	2.9
$20,000-29,999	20.0	18.2	1.2	0.5	2.0
$30,000-39,999	15.4	13.4	1.2	0.3	2.0
$40,000-49,999	11.3	9.1	1.6	0.1	1.2
$50,000-59,999	8.7	5.9	2.2	0.1	0.9
$60,000-69,999	5.1	4.0	0.8	0.1	0.3
$70,000-79,999	5.5	4.3	1.0	0.0	0.3
$80,000-99,999	3.5	2.6	0.4	0.1	0.5
$100,000 or more	2.4	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.2

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[24] Other state financial aid includes aid from state sources that could not be classified into grant, work, or loan aid.

Table 5.1—Percentage of undergraduates receiving state aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	20.5	17.8	0.5	0.4	3.2
$5,000-9,999	15.7	13.2	0.5	0.4	2.8
$10,000-19,999	9.5	7.8	0.3	0.1	1.8
$20,000-29,999	7.4	5.9	0.2	0.0	1.6
$30,000-49,999	3.8	3.1	0.2	0.1	0.8
$50,000 or more	2.9	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.8
Undergraduate level					
First year	10.4	8.7	0.4	0.1	1.9
Second year	14.5	12.6	0.8	0.2	2.0
Third year	17.1	15.2	1.1	0.3	1.6
Fourth year	15.5	13.4	0.9	0.4	1.7
Fifth year/not graduate	10.2	8.7	0.8	0.7	1.8
Race-ethnicity					
American Indian	20.0	16.6	0.1	0.0	3.9
Asian	13.3	12.3	0.2	0.3	1.7
Black, non-Hispanic	15.8	13.9	0.4	0.2	2.2
Hispanic	16.2	13.8	0.6	0.3	2.5
White, non-Hispanic	11.9	10.1	0.8	0.2	1.7
Residence					
On campus	22.1	19.3	1.6	0.4	2.5
Off campus	10.9	9.1	0.5	0.2	1.8
With parents	11.7	10.2	0.6	0.1	1.6
Age as of 12/31/89					
16-23 years	15.0	13.1	1.0	0.3	1.8
24-29 years	11.1	9.7	0.5	0.2	1.6
30-39 years	10.4	8.4	0.3	0.2	2.1
40 years or older	6.7	5.3	0.1	0.1	1.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

Like the federal student aid programs, some state programs are awarded based upon a formula, and some are awarded at the discretion of the institution's financial aid administrator. Because federal and many state programs use the same method for calculating financial need, many of the characteristics of state and federal aid recipients are similar. In both cases, aid receipt varied with dependency status, income, residence, and type of institution.

Eligible Undergraduates Receiving State Financial Aid by Student Characteristics

Restricting the population to undergraduate students who were eligible to participate in federal aid programs (attending at least one-half time and either a citizen or an eligible noncitizen), as expected, increased the percentage of students receiving state aid. About 17 percent of eligible undergraduates received some form of state financial aid and 14 percent received state grant aid (table 5.2). The patterns of which eligible students received state financial aid were similar to those for all undergraduate students.

Table 5.2—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving state aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	16.5	14.2	0.9	0.3	2.1
Control of institution					
Public	14.6	12.4	0.9	0.4	2.0
Private not-for-profit	28.0	25.4	1.1	0.3	2.9
Private for-profit	9.1	7.5	0.5	0.0	1.4
Dependency status					
Dependent	16.8	14.7	1.2	0.3	1.8
Independent	16.0	13.5	0.5	0.3	2.5
Gender					
Male	14.5	12.2	0.9	0.3	2.0
Female	18.2	16.0	1.0	0.4	2.1
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	33.1	30.4	0.6	0.6	3.3
$10,000-19,999	28.6	26.1	0.7	0.7	3.2
$20,000-29,999	23.0	21.0	1.3	0.6	2.3
$30,000-39,999	17.2	14.9	1.5	0.4	2.1
$40,000-49,999	12.3	9.8	1.9	0.1	1.4
$50,000-59,999	9.6	6.5	2.5	0.1	1.0
$60,000-69,999	5.8	4.4	1.0	0.1	0.4
$70,000-79,999	6.3	4.8	1.2	0.0	0.3
$80,000-99,999	4.1	3.0	0.5	0.1	0.6
$100,000 or more	2.6	2.2	0.2	0.0	0.3
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	24.1	21.0	0.6	0.5	3.6
$5,000-9,999	19.1	16.2	0.6	0.6	2.8
$10,000-19,999	14.2	11.7	0.5	0.2	2.4
$20,000-29,999	11.9	9.9	0.4	0.1	2.1
$30,000-49,999	6.9	5.8	0.3	0.2	1.0
$50,000 or more	5.2	3.9	0.3	0.0	1.0

Table 5.2—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving state aid by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Undergraduate level					
First year	13.8	11.6	0.7	0.2	2.2
Second year	18.6	16.1	1.0	0.3	2.2
Third year	20.4	18.2	1.4	0.4	1.9
Fourth year	18.3	15.8	1.1	0.5	1.9
Fifth year/not graduate	16.2	13.6	1.5	1.3	1.3
Race-ethnicity					
American Indian	23.6	19.8	0.1	0.0	4.6
Asian	18.6	17.3	0.3	0.5	2.3
Black, non-Hispanic	19.5	17.0	0.6	0.3	2.4
Hispanic	20.6	18.1	0.8	0.5	2.5
White, non-Hispanic	15.4	13.1	1.0	0.3	2.0
Residence					
On campus	23.1	20.1	1.7	0.4	2.5
Off campus	15.5	13.1	0.7	0.4	2.2
With parents	13.8	12.1	0.7	0.1	1.7
Age as of 12/31/89					
16-23 years	16.9	14.7	1.1	0.3	1.9
24-29 years	16.1	14.2	0.7	0.3	1.8
30-39 years	16.5	13.4	0.5	0.4	3.1
40 years or older	13.9	11.3	0.2	0.2	3.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

Like federal programs, the proportions of students who received state aid varied by several student and institutional characteristics. One exception to the federal aid pattern was that there was no significant difference between the proportions of dependent and independent students who received state aid.

The proportion of eligible undergraduates who received state aid varied by income, undergraduate level, and residence. Low income students were more likely to receive state aid than students with high incomes. For example, 33 percent of the dependent students with an annual family income of less than $10,000 received state aid, while 17 percent of those with a family income of $30,000-39,999 and 3 percent of those with a family income of $100,000 or more received state aid. Also, fourth year students were more likely to receive state aid than first year students (18 percent vs. 14 percent). Students who lived on campus were also more likely to receive state aid than those who either lived off campus (23 percent vs. 16 percent) or lived with their parents (23 percent vs. 14 percent).

Average Amount

The average amount of total state financial aid awarded to eligible undergraduates was much lower than that of federal financial aid. The average state amount was $1,340 (table 5.3), compared with the average federal amount of $3,113 (chapter 4). However, the average state awards were different from the average federal aid amounts for all types of aid, but the differences were much less. For example, the average amount of state grant aid was $1,203 compared with $1,562 for federal grant aid (chapter 4). In addition, the average amount of a state loan was $2,351, compared with the average federal loan of $2,647 (chapter 4). The higher total average amount of federal aid as opposed to state aid is partly due to the fact that a greater proportion of federal aid is provided in the form of loans. As was true for federal loans, the average amount of state loans was higher than for state grants ($2,351 vs. $1,203).

Table 5.3—Average amount of state aid received by eligible undergraduates by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Total	$1,340	$1,203	$2,351	$1,276	$1,168
Control of institution					
Public	1,038	885	2,231	1,231	878
Private not-for-profit	1,870	1,735	2,769	1,536	1,685
Private for-profit	1,904	1,762	2,222	—	2,268
Dependency status					
Dependent	1,448	1,291	2,425	1,277	1,140
Independent	1,187	1,080	2,094	1,274	1,173
Gender					
Male	1,372	1,218	2,415	1,309	1,237
Female	1,319	1,195	2,293	1,247	1,061
Dependent student income					
Less than $10,000	1,455	1,389	—	—	1,333
$10,000-19,999	1,494	1,439	—	—	954
$20,000-29,999	1,332	1,180	2,179	—	1,025
$30,000-39,999	1,361	1,202	1,915	—	1,091
$40,000-49,999	1,503	1,191	2,650	—	1,228
$50,000-59,999	1,641	1,158	2,691	—	1,342
$60,000-69,999	1,547	1,166	—	—	—
$70,000-79,999	1,838	1,353	—	—	—
$80,000-99,999	1,497	1,148	—	—	—
$100,000 or more	1,428	1,351	—	—	—

Table 5.3—Average amount of state aid received by eligible undergraduates by type of aid, by student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All state aid	Grants	Loans	Work	Other
Independent student income					
Less than $5,000	1,192	1,070	1,604	—	1,302
$5,000-9,999	1,141	1,057	—	—	1,044
$10,000-19,999	1,243	1,146	—	—	1,134
$20,000-29,999	1,134	1,013	—	—	985
$30,000-49,999	1,204	1,060	—	—	1,490
$50,000 or more	1,203	1,195	—	—	—
Undergraduate level					
First year	1,299	1,172	2,397	1,042	1,169
Second year	1,218	1,102	2,275	891	984
Third year	1,504	1,360	2,112	—	1,291
Fourth year	1,473	1,296	2,617	1,409	1,448
Fifth year/not graduate	1,516	1,185	—	—	—
Race-ethnicity					
American Indian	1,443	1,491	—	—	—
Asian	1,457	1,358	—	—	1,109
Black,non-Hispanic	1,261	1,166	—	—	1,311
Hispanic	1,365	1,252	—	—	1,192
White,non-Hispanic	1,340	1,187	2,393	1,279	1,150
Residence					
On campus	1,691	1,515	2,483	1,237	1,546
Off campus	1,225	1,082	2,382	1,329	1,183
With parents	1,173	1,086	2,104	—	783
Age as of 12/31/89					
16-23 years	1,408	1,264	2,387	1,315	1,105
24-29 years	1,209	1,078	2,349	—	1,123
30-39 years	1,163	1,055	—	—	1,202
40 years or older	1,062	952	—	—	1,154

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

NOTE: Average amounts are based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

State aid was awarded to undergraduates in ways similar to federal aid across student and institutional characteristics. For example, the average amount of state aid did not vary across income categories for either dependent or independent students. However, there were some differences from the patterns in which federal aid amounts were distributed. For example, dependent students received greater average amounts of state aid than did independent students ($1,448 vs. $1,187) as compared with federal aid where independent students received higher average amounts ($3,224 vs. $2,997). Interestingly, one example that shows where state financial aid policies support students who attend different types of institutions is that the average amount of state aid was higher at private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions than it was at public institutions ($1,870 and $1,904 compared with $1,038).

State Financial Aid to Eligible Undergraduates by Institutional Control and Level

The distribution of state aid recipients across types of institutions in part reflects states' policies toward financial aid. Some states have special aid programs that target specific types of institutions, such as public 2- to 3-year or private not-for-profit institutions.

In general, state financial aid was awarded in greater numbers to students who attend private not-for-profit and 4-year institutions. For example, 28 percent of students who attend at least one-half time and are either citizens or eligible noncitizens and who attended private not-for-profit institutions received state aid. This percentage is higher than at either public institutions (15 percent) or proprietary institutions (9 percent) (table 5.4). Also, higher proportions of students who attended 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions received state aid. About 24 percent of the undergraduates at those institutions received state aid compared with 17 percent at 4-year doctoral institutions, 13 percent at 2- to 3-year institutions, and 7 percent at less-than-2-year institutions.

Table 5.4—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving state aid by type of aid, control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	14.6	28.0	9.1	7.2	12.6	24.3	16.8
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	7.3	11.9	19.5	15.5
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	25.4	22.3	32.9	21.4
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	5.9	17.3	7.5	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	13.6	29.0	10.0	4.3	10.4	24.9	16.2
Independent	16.0	25.6	8.8	7.9	14.4	23.1	18.5
Gender							
Male	12.6	24.6	8.1	5.0	9.4	22.0	15.4
Female	16.1	30.7	10.5	7.2	14.8	26.0	18.1
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	31.9	46.1	13.1	7.0	27.2	43.9	33.4
$10,000-19,999	25.8	45.5	11.8	3.8	17.0	42.5	33.3
$20,000-29,999	19.9	38.9	11.0	3.3	13.2	32.7	26.5
$30,000-39,999	12.7	38.7	11.7	4.8	8.4	26.6	17.7
$40,000-49,999	8.0	30.8	5.6	2.1	5.5	18.2	12.8
$50,000-59,999	6.4	21.7	3.4	4.0	3.2	14.3	10.5
$60,000-69,999	2.9	16.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	10.5	5.5
$70,000-79,999	3.8	13.5	—	—	3.5	9.4	5.4
$80,000-99,999	2.5	8.2	—	—	0.4	5.4	5.0
$100,000 or more	1.4	4.6	—	—	1.1	3.8	2.6

Table 5.4—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving state aid, by type of aid, control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	27.7	33.2	10.8	9.1	25.8	34.0	27.8
$5,000-9,999	19.9	33.5	8.1	7.9	18.0	28.2	20.9
$10,000-19,999	13.7	27.1	7.5	7.5	12.6	22.2	15.9
$20,000-29,999	11.3	18.9	7.4	5.9	10.6	17.7	12.5
$30,000-49,999	5.0	15.8	9.0	8.2	4.9	11.2	6.5
$50,000 or more	5.0	7.6	0.0	0.8	4.6	7.3	5.9
Undergraduate level							
First year	12.9	27.4	7.7	7.2	11.9	22.8	16.6
Second year	16.1	28.9	20.5	7.4	15.1	27.0	17.8
Third year	16.9	29.5	9.6	—	6.2	25.3	17.6
Fourth year	15.3	27.1	7.8	—	2.5	23.0	15.4
Fifth year/not graduate	15.5	19.0	—	—	—	20.1	17.1
Race–ethnicity							
American Indian	26.5	27.8	4.7	3.1	24.2	28.0	28.6
Asian	18.7	24.3	4.1	4.2	12.1	27.0	22.4
Black, non-Hispanic	20.8	36.8	6.0	5.2	18.5	29.8	23.4
Hispanic	19.9	30.2	12.9	13.7	13.5	30.4	28.6
White, non-Hispanic	13.1	27.1	9.6	6.1	11.6	23.0	14.8
Residence							
On campus	18.9	29.1	16.2	14.5	13.5	28.9	18.8
Off campus	15.3	23.4	9.0	8.0	14.6	20.8	15.8
With parents	11.5	33.9	8.6	4.9	10.1	23.7	15.7
Age as of 12/31/89							
16–23 years	14.1	29.2	9.4	4.4	11.0	25.1	16.7
24–29 years	16.3	24.0	7.8	4.5	14.5	22.7	17.9
30–39 years	16.0	24.9	11.3	10.3	15.5	22.1	17.4
40 years or older	13.0	19.7	13.5	11.7	13.3	18.4	11.6

*The same variable is used for both the column and the row.

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The pattern of recipients was similar to those for federal student aid for several student characteristics including income, year in school, and residence. For example, the percentage of dependent students at public and private not-for-profit institutions who received state aid declined from the bottom to the top income categories (pub:32 percent vs. 1 percent and private: 46 percent vs. 5 percent) (table 5.4). The pattern of receipt of state financial aid differs from that for federal aid for other student characteristics. The proportion of dependent and independent students who received state aid was the same at proprietary institutions (10 percent vs. 9 percent) when compared with federal aid, where independent students were more likely to receive aid than dependent students (71 percent vs. 85 percent).

The patterns in the average amount of state aid awarded by student characteristics were also generally similar to the patterns for federal aid with only some occasional differences. For example, the average amount of state aid was greater for dependent than for independent students among those who attended public institutions ($1,150 vs. $908) and among those who attended 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions ($1,570 vs. $1,308) (table 5.5). For federal aid, independent students generally received higher average amounts of aid across institutional control and level categories.

Table 5.5—Average amount of state aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	$1,038	$1,870	$1,904	$2,024	$877	$1,487	$1,495
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,330	704	1,170	1,279
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,216	1,660	1,799	2,066
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,148	1,809	—	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	1,150	1,889	1,755	1,820	970	1,570	1,517
Independent	908	1,820	1,979	2,050	825	1,308	1,444
Gender							
Male	1,099	1,867	1,901	2,232	821	1,498	1,528
Female	1,008	1,886	1,868	1,904	915	1,489	1,473
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	1,108	2,074	1,863	2,077	1,059	1,638	1,452
$10,000-19,999	1,134	2,136	2,273	—	1,082	1,713	1,436
$20,000-29,999	989	2,007	1,377	—	985	1,444	1,382
$30,000-39,999	1,034	1,820	1,472	—	722	1,462	1,478
$40,000-49,999	1,341	1,683	—	—	854	1,602	1,592
$50,000-59,999	1,707	1,576	—	—	—	1,636	1,831
$60,000-69,999	1,632	1,495	—	—	—	1,368	1,932
$70,000-79,999	—	1,880	—	—	—	2,035	2,042
$80,000-99,999	—	1,542	—	—	—	—	1,703
$100,000 or more	—	1,234	—	—	—	—	1,699

Table 5.5—Average amount of state aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	931	1,933	1,881	2,069	841	1,332	1,351
$5,000-9,999	844	1,867	1,890	2,016	797	1,238	1,322
$10,000-19,999	946	1,854	2,188	2,005	930	1,358	1,561
$20,000-29,999	885	1,548	2,303	2,399	668	1,269	1,729
$30,000-49,999	868	1,582	—	1,824	650	1,306	1,930
$50,000 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undergraduate level							
First year	940	1,903	2,030	2,061	918	1,544	1,408
Second year	953	1,812	1,580	—	802	1,482	1,487
Third year	1,225	1,903	—	—	—	1,437	1,608
Fourth year	1,227	1,880	—	—	—	1,464	1,487
Fifth year/not graduate	1,572	1,368	—	—	—	1,520	1,491
Race-ethnicity							
American Indian	1,267	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asian	1,138	2,629	—	—	860	1,599	1,690
Black, non-Hispanic	946	1,925	1,998	2,201	839	1,390	1,511
Hispanic	1,082	1,603	2,200	2,203	994	1,287	1,416
White, non-Hispanic	1,037	1,865	1,752	1,802	867	1,516	1,483
Residence							
On campus	1,320	2,013	1,862	—	1,561	1,764	1,588
Off campus	1,002	1,819	1,920	2,019	816	1,346	1,470
With parents	897	1,646	1,881	2,013	918	1,243	1,373
Age as of 12/31/89							
16-23 years	1,105	1,904	1,681	1,632	910	1,546	1,513
24-29 years	990	1,855	1,872	2,121	967	1,272	1,389
30-39 years	896	1,703	2,167	2,116	834	1,376	1,414
40 years or older	769	1,621	2,088	2,140	664	1,195	1,818

*The same variable is used for both the column and the row.

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

NOTE: Average amounts are based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Institutional Financial Aid to Undergraduates

The proportion of undergraduates who received institutional aid is much lower than the proportion who received federal aid. About 15 percent of undergraduates received institutional aid while 29 percent of undergraduates received federal aid. Most institutional aid is in the form of grants. About the same proportion of students who received any institutional aid received of grants. About the same proportion of students who received any institutional aid received grant aid, and far fewer received other types of institutional aid: 13 percent received grants, 1 percent loans, and 2 percent other institutional aid (table 5.6).

Table 5.6—Percentage of undergraduates receiving institutional aid, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Total	14.5	13.1	0.7	1.9
Control of institution				
Public	9.5	8.1	0.6	1.6
Private not-for-profit	36.8	34.7	1.4	4.1
Private for-profit	18.1	17.3	0.5	0.6
Dependency status				
Dependent	19.1	17.2	0.9	2.7
Independent	10.3	9.2	0.5	1.1
Gender				
Male	13.8	12.3	0.7	1.9
Female	14.8	13.3	0.7	2.0
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	26.5	23.4	1.4	4.1
$10,000–19,999	22.2	20.6	0.6	2.9
$20,000–29,999	22.0	19.5	0.9	3.0
$30,000–39,999	18.2	16.5	0.7	2.8
$40,000–49,999	20.3	18.6	1.0	2.4
$50,000–59,999	18.8	17.2	0.8	2.5
$60,000–69,999	14.8	13.0	0.9	2.8
$70,000–79,999	13.2	12.1	0.5	1.4
$80,000–99,999	10.1	8.7	0.8	1.7
$100,000 or more	9.4	7.9	0.8	1.5
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	19.3	18.0	0.8	1.8
$5,000–9,999	14.8	13.1	0.7	1.9
$10,000–19,999	8.8	7.6	0.5	0.9
$20,000–29,999	7.0	6.2	0.5	0.8
$30,000–49,999	5.1	4.3	0.3	0.8
$50,000 or more	3.1	2.5	0.2	0.5
Undergraduate level				
First year	12.7	11.5	0.5	1.5
Second year	13.9	12.3	0.8	2.0
Third year	19.9	17.9	1.0	2.8
Fourth year	18.4	16.4	1.1	2.5
Fifth year/not graduate	13.8	10.9	0.3	3.4

Table 5.6—Percentage of undergraduates receiving institutional aid, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Race–ethnicity				
American Indian	13.2	12.4	0.3	0.7
Asian	13.9	12.9	0.8	2.5
Black, non-Hispanic	20.4	18.5	1.1	1.8
Hispanic	15.1	13.7	0.4	1.7
White, non-Hispanic	13.8	12.3	0.7	1.9
Residence				
On campus	33.7	31.3	1.1	4.4
Off campus	11.0	9.7	0.6	1.4
With parents	11.5	10.1	0.6	1.6
Age as of 12/31/89				
16–23 years	18.4	16.5	0.8	2.6
24–29 years	10.0	8.8	0.8	1.2
30–39 years	8.0	7.0	0.4	0.9
40 years or older	7.7	6.7	0.1	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

Eligible Undergraduates Receiving Institutional Aid by Student Characteristics

Focusing on the population of undergraduates who attended at least one-half time and are either citizens or eligible noncitizens does not substantially change the distribution of institutional aid recipients from that for all undergraduates. Additionally, the patterns of institutional aid recipients were similar to those for state aid.

In particular, dependent students, lower income students, and those students in their third and fourth years were more likely to receive institutional aid than each of their comparison groups (table 5.7). For example, 21 percent of dependent students received institutional aid compared with 15 percent of independent students. Also, while 28 percent of dependent students with a family income of less than $10,000 received institutional aid, 10 percent of dependent students with a family income of $100,000 or more received aid.

Table 5.7—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving institutional aid, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Total	18.1	16.4	0.8	2.2
Control of institution				
Public	11.9	10.2	0.7	1.8
Private not-for-profit	42.0	39.7	1.5	4.7
Private for-profit	20.1	19.2	0.6	0.6
Dependency status				
Dependent	20.9	18.8	0.9	2.8
Independent	14.5	13.1	0.7	1.3
Gender				
Male	17.2	15.4	0.9	2.2
Female	18.5	16.7	0.8	2.3
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	28.3	25.2	1.5	3.5
$10,000–19,999	24.9	23.0	0.7	3.1
$20,000–29,999	24.5	21.9	0.8	3.2
$30,000–39,999	20.2	18.5	0.7	2.8
$40,000–49,999	21.8	19.9	1.1	2.5
$50,000–59,999	20.6	19.0	0.9	2.6
$60,000–69,999	15.3	13.3	1.0	2.9
$70,000–79,999	14.8	13.5	0.6	1.7
$80,000–99,999	11.3	9.7	0.8	2.1
$100,000 or more	10.0	8.2	0.8	1.7
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	22.3	20.8	0.9	1.8
$5,000–9,999	17.9	15.9	0.9	2.0
$10,000–19,999	11.7	10.4	0.8	0.9
$20,000–29,999	10.0	9.2	0.7	0.8
$30,000–49,999	8.0	7.0	0.5	0.9
$50,000 or more	4.5	3.8	0.1	1.0
Undergraduate level				
First year	16.5	15.1	0.6	1.6
Second year	17.0	15.0	0.9	2.3
Third year	23.0	20.9	1.1	2.9
Fourth year	21.0	18.7	1.2	2.9
Fifth year/not graduate	18.8	16.2	0.4	3.4

Table 5.7—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving institutional aid, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Race–ethnicity				
American Indian	17.8	16.9	0.4	0.9
Asian	16.7	15.4	0.8	1.9
Black, non-Hispanic	24.7	22.9	1.1	1.7
Hispanic	18.5	17.0	0.5	1.9
White, non-Hispanic	17.3	15.4	0.8	2.3
Residence				
On campus	34.5	32.1	1.0	4.4
Off campus	15.0	13.3	0.8	1.7
With parents	12.8	11.3	0.7	1.5
Age as of 12/31/89				
16–23 years	20.3	18.3	0.9	2.6
24–29 years	13.5	12.0	1.1	1.4
30–39 years	12.0	10.9	0.5	1.1
40 years or older	12.2	10.6	0.2	1.7

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study:1990.

The average amount of institutional aid received by eligible undergraduates was lower than that for federal aid and higher than that for state aid. Eligible undergraduates received an average amount of $2,072 of institutional aid compared with $3,113 for federal aid and $1,340 for state aid (table 5.8). Most of the institutional aid was in the form of grants with eligible undergraduates receiving an average grant of $2,059. The average institutional loan was $1,315.

Table 5.8—Average amount of institutional aid received by eligible undergraduates, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Total	$2,072	$2,059	$1,315	$1,283
Control of institution				
Public	1,284	1,272	724	1,059
Private not-for-profit	3,170	3,076	2,374	1,614
Private for-profit	1,357	1,326	1,703	1,377
Dependency status				
Dependent	2,453	2,442	1,578	1,371
Independent	1,345	1,331	887	1,039
Gender				
Male	2,321	2,321	1,375	1,323
Female	1,933	1,917	1,264	1,224
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	2,079	2,082	744	1,538
$10,000–19,999	2,191	2,167	—	1,296
$20,000–29,999	2,301	2,366	1,515	1,056
$30,000–39,999	2,582	2,531	1,664	1,525
$40,000–49,999	2,658	2,616	1,642	1,589
$50,000–59,999	2,574	2,534	1,805	1,292
$60,000–69,999	2,611	2,619	1,900	1,087
$70,000–79,999	3,066	3,036	—	1,444
$80,000–99,999	2,921	2,786	—	1,688
$100,000 or more	3,218	3,424	—	1,381
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	1,457	1,437	865	1,029
$5,000–9,999	1,227	1,208	1,117	901
$10,000–19,999	1,247	1,268	559	1,100
$20,000–29,999	1,357	1,269	—	—
$30,000–49,999	1,432	1,415	—	—
$50,000 or more	1,473	1,552	—	—
Undergraduate level				
First year	1,752	1,751	1,169	1,088
Second year	2,117	2,135	1,131	1,211
Third year	2,512	2,447	1,851	1,505
Fourth year	2,471	2,444	1,342	1,574
Fifth year/not graduate	1,145	1,107	—	—

Table 5.8—Average amount of institutional aid received by eligible undergraduates, by type of aid, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	All institutional aid	Grants	Loans	Other
Race–ethnicity				
American Indian	2,502	2,427	—	1,528
Asian	2,502	2,427	—	1,528
Black, non-Hispanic	2,082	2,103	887	1,335
Hispanic	1,744	1,697	1,519	1,413
White, non-Hispanic	2,083	2,070	1,349	1,255
Residence				
On campus	3,091	3,030	2,292	1,567
Off campus	1,553	1,528	1,028	1,219
With parents	1,316	1,321	957	854
Age as of 12/31/89				
16–23 years	2,364	2,356	1,522	1,338
24–29 years	1,268	1,241	790	976
30–39 years	1,143	1,126	—	914
40 years or older	1,116	1,107	—	—

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimates.

NOTE: Average amounts are based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

The average amount of institutional aid differed by dependency status, control of institution, and year in school, but did not differ by income. For example, dependent students received an average of $2,453 in institutional aid compared with $1,345 for independent students. Students who attended private not-for-profit institutions received more than twice the average amount of institutional aid ($3,170) than students at either public institutions ($1,284) or at proprietary institutions ($1,357).

Institutional Aid to Eligible Undergraduates by Institutional Control and Level

As discussed above, much of the institutional financial aid was awarded by private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions. Among eligible students, 42 percent of students at private not-for-profit institutions, 20 percent of students at proprietary institutions, and 12 percent of students at public institutions received institutional aid (table 5.9). Aid receipt varied little by level of institution. Twenty-two percent of the students who attended 4-year doctoral-granting institutions and 25 percent of those who attended 4-year non-doctoral-granting institutions received institutional aid while 19 percent of students at less-than-2-year institutions, compared with 10 percent of students who attended 2- to 3-year institutions, received institutional aid.

Table 5.9—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving institutional aid, by type of aid, control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Total	11.9	42.0	20.1	19.4	9.9	25.1	21.6
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	6.3	8.8	12.0	16.8
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	0.7	25.6	47.0	39.4
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	2.7	15.7	12.0	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	13.2	47.4	16.1	16.1	10.3	28.9	22.7
Independent	10.2	29.3	22.0	20.8	9.5	17.5	18.8
Gender							
Male	11.3	41.8	15.0	13.0	8.4	24.3	21.5
Female	12.5	42.8	19.0	18.6	11.0	25.7	21.9
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	21.3	50.8	22.5	25.3	17.5	34.2	33.0
$10,000–19,999	17.6	53.5	18.6	16.2	14.2	32.4	31.4
$20,000–29,999	16.5	57.4	18.4	19.5	13.9	33.1	27.9
$30,000–39,999	11.9	59.0	9.6	8.2	7.4	30.4	23.4
$40,000–49,999	13.3	57.9	10.1	6.6	9.9	30.1	24.5
$50,000–59,999	11.7	53.7	6.5	3.3	7.5	28.3	24.5
$60,000–69,999	7.3	42.8	9.8	3.4	6.0	23.6	15.5
$70,000–79,999	6.5	38.8	—	—	4.0	21.5	15.3
$80,000–99,999	5.4	26.0	—	—	2.1	17.2	11.9
$100,000 or more	7.0	14.9	—	—	2.7	14.8	10.4
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	17.4	41.0	26.5	6.6	17.6	23.6	25.6
$5,000–9,999	12.6	35.8	25.7	25.7	13.7	18.7	19.3
$10,000–19,999	8.1	27.8	17.0	15.2	7.2	16.3	18.0
$20,000–29,999	7.3	18.9	17.1	15.6	6.3	13.1	13.9
$30,000–49,999	5.0	22.1	11.3	6.9	3.7	15.6	11.2
$50,000 or more	2.0	15.1	8.0	4.7	1.3	8.4	9.3
Undergraduate level							
First year	11.0	40.0	20.9	19.7	10.4	25.3	22.1
Second year	11.3	42.8	16.2	14.1	9.5	26.9	21.7
Third year	14.6	44.3	6.1	—	7.3	25.6	22.4
Fourth year	13.6	42.6	4.7	—	0.7	23.2	20.3
Fifth year/not graduate	14.3	32.9	—	—	—	17.4	25.8

Table 5.9—Percentage of eligible undergraduates receiving institutional aid by type of aid, control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989–90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 year	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Race–ethnicity							
American Indian	14.3	45.3	13.3	9.4	8.7	24.4	34.5
Asian	10.9	43.5	21.8	2.1	8.6	15.8	26.2
Black,non-Hispanic	20.9	43.4	24.7	6.1	18.4	25.0	35.4
Hispanic	14.1	27.5	23.5	3.2	8.2	21.4	29.6
White,non-Hispanic	10.7	43.4	17.3	5.3	8.9	25.9	19.4
Residence							
On campus	20.4	54.3	16.3	9.4	28.2	40.9	29.3
Off campus	11.3	31.0	20.6	9.4	9.7	17.3	18.8
With parents	8.9	32.7	19.6	9.9	8.7	16.9	15.8
Age as of 12/31/89							
16–23 years	13.1	47.1	16.5	7.5	10.2	28.2	22.9
24–29 years	9.8	28.7	20.0	8.1	10.0	15.2	16.2
30–39 years	8.6	24.6	19.1	6.9	7.8	16.8	17.1
40 years or older	9.8	24.3	15.0	1.1	10.4	16.8	14.2

*The same variable is used for both the column and the row.

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1990.

The distribution of institutional aid across institutional control categories was similar to the way in which state aid was distributed in terms of income. For example, students who had low income generally were more likely than students with high income to receive institutional aid. However, the distribution of institutional aid differed from that for state aid for other student characteristics. For example, dependent students attending either public or private not-for-profit institutions received institutional aid in higher proportions than did independent students at these institutions. This pattern did not hold at proprietary institutions. Also, students who attended public or private not-for-profit institutions and lived on campus were more likely to receive institutional aid than those who lived off campus or those who lived with their parents.

The distribution of institutional aid by institution level was similar to that for institutional aid by control insofar as the ways in which it differed from the distribution of state aid. For example, at both types of 4-year institutions, higher proportions of dependent students than independent students received institutional aid. Also, with the exception of those at less-than-2-year institutions, students who lived on campus were more likely to receive institutional aid than those who either lived off campus or with their parents.

Average Amount

The distribution of the average amounts of institutional aid by control and level of institution, like the proportion of students who received it, reflects the concentration of institutional aid in private not-for-profit 4-year institutions. Students at private not-for-profit institutions had the highest average amount of institutional aid, $3,170, and students at both types of 4-year institutions also had higher average amounts (nondoctoral, $2,162, and doctoral, $2,851) than did students at less-than-2 year and 2- to 3-year institutions ($1,394 and $893, respectively) (table 5.10). Also, similar to the proportion of students who received institutional aid, the average amounts received by those students tended to be higher for dependent students, and for those who lived on campus.

Table 5.10—Average amount of institutional aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
	$1,284	$3,170	$1,357	$1,394	$893	$2,162	$2,851
Control of institution							
Public	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,575	782	1,198	1,707
Private not-for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,331	1,320	2,578	4,620
Private for-profit	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,385	1,312	984	—
Dependency status							
Dependent	1,444	3,462	1,507	1,464	978	2,398	3,112
Independent	1,003	2,057	1,313	1,376	820	1,378	1,987
Gender							
Male	1,465	3,374	1,453	1,302	982	2,266	3,067
Female	1,149	3,051	1,186	1,246	843	2,114	2,662
Dependent student income							
Less than $10,000	1,174	3,245	1,591	1,681	886	2,269	2,577
$10,000–19,999	1,371	3,291	1,277	1,194	1,196	2,007	3,023
$20,000–29,999	1,271	3,557	1,293	1,301	878	2,384	3,058
$30,000–39,999	1,498	3,576	—	—	942	2,633	3,022
$40,000–49,999	1,745	3,529	—	—	1,072	2,430	3,418
$50,000–59,999	1,553	3,358	—	—	1,045	2,462	3,021
$60,000–69,999	1,298	3,360	—	—	—	2,482	3,170
$70,000–79,999	1,255	3,951	—	—	—	2,650	3,748
$80,000–99,999	1,655	3,672	—	—	—	2,483	3,545
$100,000 or more	2,801	3,529	—	—	—	2,621	3,858

Table 5.10—Average amount of institutional aid received by eligible undergraduates, by control and level of institution, and student characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Public	Private not-for-profit	Private for-profit	Less than 2 years	2- to 3-year	4-year non-doctoral	4-year doctoral
Independent student income							
Less than $5,000	1,053	2,409	1,468	1,473	848	1,558	2,183
$5,000-9,999	874	1,928	1,251	1,299	703	1,302	1,794
$10,000-19,999	965	1,845	1,172	1,210	823	1,329	1,766
$20,000-29,999	1,188	1,874	1,140	1,534	829	1,201	2,234
$30,000-49,999	1,054	1,953	—	—	—	1,344	2,014
$50,000 or more	—	2,015	—	—	—	—	—
Undergraduate level							
First year	1,095	3,005	1,387	1,409	883	2,130	2,898
Second year	1,297	3,181	1,051	954	907	2,194	3,024
Third year	1,522	3,332	—	—	—	2,194	2,915
Fourth year	1,538	3,333	—	—	—	2,194	2,727
Fifth year/not graduate	930	1,469	—	—	—	1,251	1,082
Race-ethnicity							
American Indian	—	5,124	—	—	—	—	3,303
Asian	1,238	4,321	1,426	—	—	1,978	3,374
Black, non-Hispanic	1,594	4,095	1,252	1,246	889	2,613	3,464
Hispanic	1,048	2,863	1,744	1,891	771	1,415	2,375
White, non-Hispanic	1,242	3,038	1,270	1,252	890	2,169	2,759
Residence							
On campus	1,826	3,750	1,677	—	1,445	2,762	3,758
Off campus	1,172	2,514	1,363	1,418	805	1,470	2,234
With parents	934	2,028	1,315	1,329	879	1,400	1,864
Age as of 12/31/89							
16-23 years	1,416	3,408	1,408	1,359	953	2,346	3,049
24-29 years	937	1,949	1,244	1,329	854	1,308	1,682
30-39 years	903	1,615	1,160	1,179	740	1,217	1,705
40 years or older	805	1,836	1,186	1,263	730	1,319	2,075

*The same variable is used for both the column and the row.

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate.

NOTE: Average amounts are based on recipients only.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

Institutional financial aid is awarded according to the policies of the institution. While much of this aid is awarded based upon financial need, some may be based upon other criteria such as merit. Institutional aid provides many students with the funds needed to attend higher costs of attendance institutions such as private not-for-profit and proprietary institutions.

Chapter 6

Sources of Financial Support

The previous chapters have discussed the sources and types of financial aid received by undergraduates to assist them in meeting the costs of attendance. Financial aid is one of many sources of financial support available to students. However, financial aid is available to only a portion of students: the primary sources of financial support are the student (and spouse) and the student's parents. This chapter discusses the ways in which the three kinds of financial support combine with one another.

Financial need, as defined in chapter 4, is the difference between the cost of attendance and a student's financial resources. The calculation of need, for financial aid purposes, distinguishes between dependent and independent students when calculating the amount of resources available to the student. For a dependent student, both the student (and spouse) and the student's parents' financial circumstances are taken into account. For an independent student, only the student's (and spouse's) finances are considered.

The measure of financial resources used in the need calculation is an amount that is expected of the student and parents. It is not necessarily the amount the student or family actually contributes. A dependent student may or may not receive financial assistance from his or her parents even though the parents' financial situation is included in the need calculation. For the purposes of this chapter, student-reported data of the actual amounts contributed by either the student or parents to the student's education are used.

This chapter examines the source of financial support for two groups of students: all undergraduates who were eligible for federal financial aid, and those undergraduates who actually received financial aid. The definition of eligibility used in this chapter is the same as in previous chapters: a student must be attending school at least half time, and must either be a citizen or an eligible noncitizen.

For the purposes of the analysis, students were first separated by dependency status. Dependent and independent students were then further classified into two categories depending on whether they received financial support only from themselves (and their spouses) or if they also received financial support from their parents. This second classification can include students from the first category.

Sources of Financial Support for Eligible Undergraduates

By the very definition of dependence, students who are financially dependent usually receive some financial support from their parents. On the other hand, independent students probably do not receive much financial support from their parents, financing their own education or receiving help from their spouse. Table 6.1 shows this tendency. Sixteen percent of eligible dependent students did not receive financial help from their parents, and about 46 percent of independent students also did not receive support from their parents. Additionally, 63 percent of dependent students financed their education with some parental support, while 15 percent of independent students received parental support. A higher proportion of dependent students received parental financial support than received no support from their parents. For independent students, the proportion of students who received parental support was less than the percentage of students who financed their own education.

Table 6.1—Percentage of eligible undergraduates who received no aid or family support and percentage who received family support, by dependency status and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989–90

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No aid or family support	Family support	No aid or family support	Family support
Total	16.0	63.1	45.9	14.9
Control of institution				
Public	17.6	64.0	52.0	16.1
Private not-for-profit	11.2	65.4	44.5	16.1
Private for-profit	13.8	39.3	21.2	8.8
Gender				
Male	16.5	64.3	50.4	17.8
Female	15.9	63.7	47.2	14.4
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	20.7	31.6	—	—
$10,000–19,999	24.5	42.8	—	—
$20,000–29,999	21.5	57.4	—	—
$30,000–39,999	17.5	65.9	—	—
$40,000–49,999	12.9	73.3	—	—
$50,000–59,999	11.7	74.0	—	—
$60,000–69,999	10.5	79.5	—	—
$70,000–79,999	9.1	78.0	—	—
$80,000–99,999	8.6	79.6	—	—
$100,000 or more	7.2	81.4	—	—
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	—	—	27.7	20.2
$5,000–9,999	—	—	38.2	20.4
$10,000–19,999	—	—	48.4	14.3
$20,000–29,999	—	—	56.6	10.2
$30,000–49,999	—	—	68.8	5.5
$50,000 or more	—	—	68.9	5.5
Undergraduate level				
First year	15.7	60.4	41.3	10.8
Second year	16.5	63.0	51.1	14.6
Third year	17.2	66.0	50.3	19.6
Fourth year	14.4	68.7	48.7	24.7
Fifth year/not graduate	19.8	61.5	53.9	18.5

Table 6.1—Percentage of eligible undergraduates who received no aid or family support and percentage who received family support, by dependency status and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No aid or family support	Family support	No aid or family support	Family support
Race–ethnicity				
American Indian	20.6	41.1	48.0	11.7
Asian	15.7	64.1	43.6	20.3
Black, non-Hispanic	15.0	46.9	32.0	9.2
Hispanic	16.5	48.6	34.7	10.6
White, non-Hispanic	16.0	66.3	50.0	16.3
Residence				
On campus	9.8	69.5	30.2	32.7
Off campus	17.0	62.7	48.8	11.5
With parents	20.2	58.3	35.8	26.9
Age as of 12/31/89				
16-23 years	16.2	63.7	40.0	27.6
24-29 years	—	—	45.2	19.9
30-39 years	—	—	54.1	6.8
40 years or older	—	—	58.4	2.7

—Sample size not sufficient for reliable estimate or not applicable.

NOTE: "No aid or family support" includes students who relied completely on their own resources (that is, received no financial aid or financial support from their families). "Family support" includes students who reported receiving financial support from their families; they may or may not have received financial aid, and may or may not have contributed to their own support. Not shown in this table are students who relied only on financial aid or on financial aid and their own resources.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The percentage of students who did and did not receive parental financial support varied by some student and institutional characteristics. The patterns not only differed between dependent and independent students, but also within each dependency status. For example, the percentage of dependent students who received no parental support declined between the bottom and top family income categories. Twenty-one percent of dependent students with a family income of less than $10,000 did not receive parental support, compared with 7 percent of those students with a family income of $100,000 or more. In addition, the proportion of dependent students who received parental support increased between the lowest and highest family income categories. Thirty-two percent of dependent students with a family income of less than $10,000 received parental support, compared with 81 percent of those with a family income of $100,000 or more.

The percentage of independent students who received no parental support increased as their own income increased. Twenty-eight percent of students with an income of less than $5,000 received no parental support, compared with 69 percent of those with an income of $50,000 or more. Not surprisingly, the pattern was reversed for independent students who received parental support. Twenty percent of those independent students with an income of less than $5,000 received parental support, compared with 6 percent for those with an income of $50,000 or more.

The percentage of both dependent and independent students who received parental support was the highest for those students who attended private not-for-profit institutions and the lowest for those who attended proprietary institutions. Sixty-five percent of dependent students who attended private not-for-profit institutions received parental support, compared with 39 percent of those who attended proprietary institutions. Also, 16 percent of independent students who attended private not-for-profit institutions received parental support, compared with 9 percent of the students at proprietary institutions.

The proportion of dependent students who received parental financial support increased between the first and fourth year in school. Sixty percent of first-year students received parental support, compared with 69 percent of fourth-year students. The same was true for independent students receiving parental support. More than twice the proportion of independent students in their fourth year received parental support than did first-year students (25 percent compared with 11 percent).[25]

Average Amount

The amount of financial support that either the student (and spouse) or parents provide is related to two factors: the amount of financial resources they have available to put toward the student's education, and the cost of attendance. If a student attends a public 2- to 3-year institution where costs are low relative to other types of institutions, the amount that is needed to attend is much lower than for a student who is attending a high cost private not-for-profit institution. The average amount of financial support that dependent students who did not receive parental support contributed themselves was $2,100, while for independent students with no parental support, the average was $1,967 (figure 6.1). For those students who received parental support, the average amount of parent and student financial support was $4,838 for dependent students and $2,310 for independent students.

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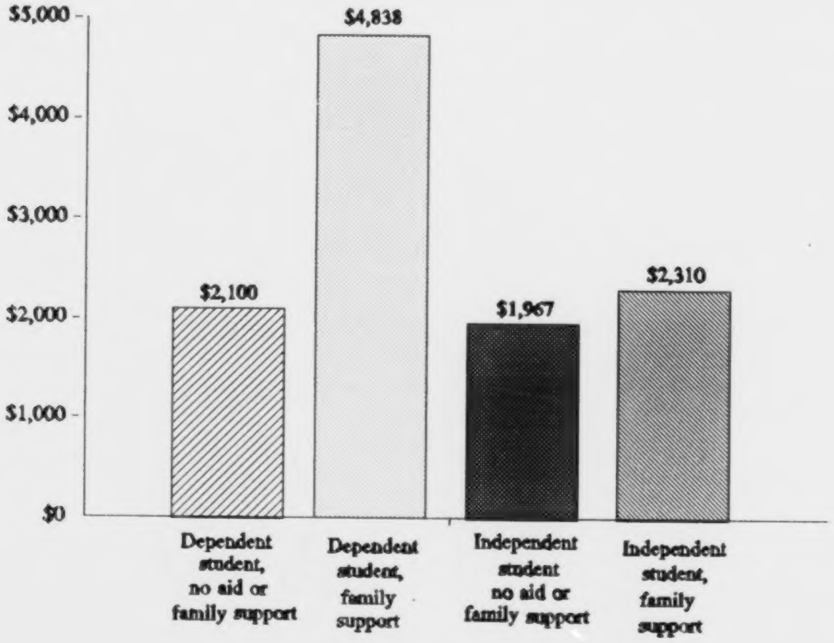
[25] The increase in the proportion of students who received parental support did not hold true for fifth-year students. The percentage of fifth-year dependent students who received family support was the same as that for first-year students. The increase between first-year and fifth-year independent students (11 percent to 19 percent) was significant, but less than the increase between first-year and fourth-year students.

Figure 6.1—Average amount of financial support for eligible undergraduates, by source: AY 1989-90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

As expected, the average amount of financial support that dependent students and their parents provided increased as the student's family income increased. The average amount of support for those students with a family income of less than $10,000 was $2,639, compared with $9,456 for those students with a family income of $100,000 or more (table 6.2). For independent students with no parental support, the average amount of financial support was not different between the lowest and highest income categories. The average amount did decrease between bottom and top income categories, however, for those independent students who received parental support. The average amount for those students with an income of less than $5,000 was $2,699, compared with $1,724 for those with an income of $50,000 or more.

Table 6.2—Average amount of support for eligible undergraduates, by dependency status, source of support, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No aid or family support	Family support	No aid or family support	Family support
Total	$2,100	$4,838	$1,967	$2,310
Control of institution				
Public	1,950	3,780	1,799	2,078
Private not-for-profit	2,637	8,757	2,984	3,856
Private for-profit	1,971	3,744	2,070	2,235
Gender				
Male	2,370	5,151	2,248	2,674
Female	1,830	4,538	1,756	2,041
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	1,672	2,639	(*)	(*)
$10,000-19,999	1,681	2,611	(*)	(*)
$20,000-29,999	1,913	3,240	(*)	(*)
$30,000-39,999	2,072	3,998	(*)	(*)
$40,000-49,999	2,337	4,934	(*)	(*)
$50,000-59,999	2,241	5,339	(*)	(*)
$60,000-69,999	2,295	5,987	(*)	(*)
$70,000-79,999	2,406	6,870	(*)	(*)
$80,000-99,999	2,480	7,726	(*)	(*)
$100,000 or more	2,316	9,456	(*)	(*)
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	(*)	(*)	1,989	2,699
$5,000-9,999	(*)	(*)	2,198	2,667
$10,000-19,999	(*)	(*)	1,847	2,149
$20,000-29,999	(*)	(*)	1,896	2,096
$30,000-49,999	(*)	(*)	2,045	2,078
$50,000 or more	(*)	(*)	1,683	1,724
Undergraduate level				
First year	1,715	3,896	1,504	1,694
Second year	2,139	4,964	1,866	2,150
Third year	2,487	6,005	2,527	3,040
Fourth year	2,698	6,271	2,750	3,414
Fifth year/not graduate	2,139	3,967	2,251	2,543
Race-ethnicity				
American Indian	1,979	3,538	3,938	4,271
Asian	1,876	5,061	2,537	3,341
Black, non-Hispanic	1,327	2,742	1,623	1,736
Hispanic	1,530	3,011	1,923	2,221
White, non-Hispanic	2,214	5,136	1,961	2,317

Table 6.2—Average amount of support for eligible undergraduates, by dependency status, source of support, and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No aid or family support	Family support	No aid or family support	Family support
Residence				
On campus	2,367	7,241	3,204	4,887
Off campus	2,521	5,387	1,944	2,201
With parents	1,553	2,557	1,804	2,244
Age as of 12/31/89				
16-23 years	2,100	4,838	2,171	2,796
24-29 years	(*)	(*)	2,062	2,420
30-39 years	(*)	(*)	1,828	1,972
40 years or older	(*)	(*)	1,665	1,787

*Not applicable. In the case of age, students over the age of 24 are independent by definition.

NOTE: Average amounts based on all respondents with nonmissing amounts. "No aid or family support" includes students who relied completely on their own resources (that is, received no financial aid or financial support from their families). "Family support" includes students who reported receiving financial support from their families; they may or may not have received financial aid, and may or may not have contributed to their own support. Not shown in this table are students who relied only on financial aid or on financial aid and their own resources.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

As would also be expected because of their relatively higher costs, the average amount of financial support for all four categories of students was the highest at private not-for-profit institutions. The average amounts were about the same for students who attended public and proprietary institutions, despite the proprietary institutions' higher average cost. For example, the average amount for dependent students who attended private not-for-profit institutions and received parental support was $8,757, compared with $3,780 for students at public institutions, and $3,744 for students at proprietary institutions.

Sources of Financial Support for Students Receiving Financial Aid

Besides students and parents providing financial support to meet the costs of attendance, students can also receive financial aid from the institution. As discussed in the previous chapters, most financial aid is awarded to students based upon their financial need, where need is defined as the difference between the cost of attendance and the amount of financial resources available from the student and parents. The parents' financial resources are included in the calculation when the student is determined to be dependent.

The proportions of aided students who did and did not receive parental support was similar to those for students eligible for financial aid. Seventeen percent of aided dependent students provided their own financial support with no support from their parents, and 55 percent of aided dependent students did receive support from their parents. For aided independent students, 34 percent provided their own support alone, and 12 percent received parental support (table 6.3).

Table 6.3—Percentage of aided undergraduates who received or did not receive family support, by dependency status and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No family support	Family support	No family support	Family support
Total	16.9	55.0	33.9	12.2
Control of institution				
Public	19.5	54.3	38.9	13.7
Private not-for-profit	13.0	62.0	41.4	14.0
Private for-profit	14.3	32.6	18.9	7.9
Gender				
Male	16.2	57.3	40.5	15.1
Female	18.3	55.9	35.2	12.3
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	22.2	31.5	(*)	(*)
$10,000-19,999	22.2	41.0	(*)	(*)
$20,000-29,999	20.1	53.7	(*)	(*)
$30,000-39,999	16.6	62.6	(*)	(*)
$40,000-49,999	11.7	71.7	(*)	(*)
$50,000-59,999	9.5	73.9	(*)	(*)
$60,000-69,999	9.9	75.8	(*)	(*)
$70,000-79,999	6.6	78.3	(*)	(*)
$80,000-99,999	5.7	75.7	(*)	(*)
$100,000 or more	5.0	72.8	(*)	(*)
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	(*)	(*)	23.2	15.1
$5,000-9,999	(*)	(*)	32.6	14.9
$10,000-19,999	(*)	(*)	36.2	10.7
$20,000-29,999	(*)	(*)	44.8	7.8
$30,000-49,999	(*)	(*)	55.0	5.9
$50,000 or more	(*)	(*)	45.8	4.8
Undergraduate level				
First year	15.4	52.6	27.2	8.7
Second year	18.1	53.3	37.3	12.4
Third year	19.7	58.3	42.9	17.4
Fourth year	16.6	61.2	45.1	19.8
Fifth year/not graduate	15.9	59.0	45.0	18.9

Table 6.3—Percentage of aided undergraduates who received or did not receive family support, by dependency status and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No family support	Family support	No family support	Family support
Race–ethnicity				
American Indian	19.5	30.4	29.6	11.0
Asian	17.4	53.9	38.0	9.2
Black, non-Hispanic	16.5	39.6	22.0	8.1
Hispanic	14.2	37.2	20.2	8.1
White, non-Hispanic	17.3	60.1	39.1	14.0
Residence				
On campus	12.0	65.5	32.1	28.0
Off campus	19.3	53.8	35.6	10.2
With parents	21.1	42.8	26.3	16.9
Age as of 12/31/89				
16–23 years	17.3	56.2	34.3	21.5
24–29 years	(*)	(*)	34.7	16.6
30–39 years	(*)	(*)	41.8	5.6
40 years or older	(*)	(*)	38.7	2.9

*Not applicable. In the case of age, students over the age of 24 are independent by definition.

NOTE: "No family support" includes students who relied on their own resources and financial aid and reported not receiving financial support from their families. "Family support" includes students who received aid and family support; they may or may not have contributed to their own support. Not shown in this table are students who relied on aid only and did not contribute to their own support.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

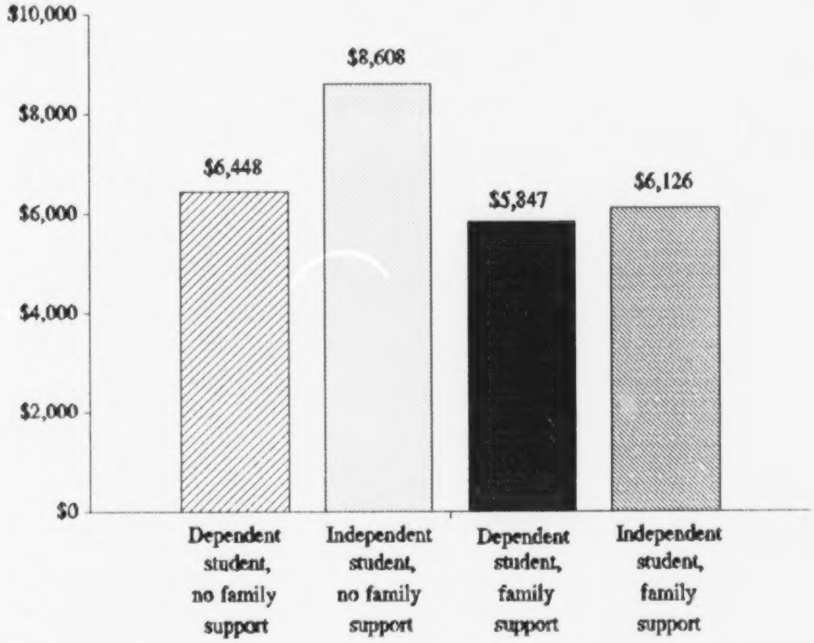
Many of the patterns that existed across student and institutional characteristics for eligible students also appeared for aided students (table 6.3). For example, the proportions of aided dependent students who received parental support increased between the lowest and highest family income categories (32 percent compared with 73 percent). The proportion decreased for independent students who received parental support between the lowest and highest student income categories (15 percent compared with 5 percent).

Average Amount

The average amount of financial support for aided students, like that for eligible students, reflects the amount of financial resources available to students and the costs of attendance. In addition, the amount of financial aid awarded to students is included in the average amount.

The average amount of financial resources for aided dependent students with no parental support was $6,448, which was lower than that for aided dependent students who received parental support, $8,608 (figure 6.2). For aided independent students not receiving parental support, the average amount was $5,847, which was not significantly different from the average amount for aided independent students with parental support, $6,126 (table 6.4).

Figure 6.2—Average amount of financial support for aided undergraduates, by source: AY 1989–90



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:90).

Table 6.4—Average amount of support for aided undergraduates, by dependency status, source of support and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No family support	Family support	No family support	Family support
Total	$6,448	$8,608	$5,847	$6,126
Control of institution				
Public	4,841	6,145	5,197	5,469
Private not-for-profit	9,397	13,322	7,842	8,287
Private for-profit	6,032	7,131	6,208	6,320
Gender				
Male	6,809	9,138	6,394	6,722
Female	6,138	8,176	5,428	5,682
Dependent student income				
Less than $10,000	6,525	7,249	(*)	(*)
$10,000-19,999	6,602	7,315	(*)	(*)
$20,000-29,999	6,431	7,621	(*)	(*)
$30,000-39,999	6,279	8,147	(*)	(*)
$40,000-49,999	6,359	9,120	(*)	(*)
$50,000-59,999	6,624	10,002	(*)	(*)
$60,000-69,999	6,288	10,750	(*)	(*)
$70,000-79,999	6,989	11,980	(*)	(*)
$80,000-99,999	6,470	12,480	(*)	(*)
$100,000 or more	5,885	12,842	(*)	(*)
Independent student income				
Less than $5,000	(*)	(*)	6,563	6,839
$5,000-9,999	(*)	(*)	6,167	6,435
$10,000-19,999	(*)	(*)	5,392	5,656
$20,000-29,999	(*)	(*)	5,520	5,701
$30,000-49,999	(*)	(*)	5,280	5,609
$50,000 or more	(*)	(*)	4,577	4,663
Undergraduate level				
First year	5,736	7,717	4,803	5,083
Second year	6,333	8,518	5,662	5,886
Third year	7,235	9,692	6,930	7,366
Fourth year	7,524	9,942	7,195	7,510
Fifth year/not graduate	5,997	7,599	6,923	7,012
Race-ethnicity				
American Indian	6,933	7,824	8,750	8,196
Asian	6,614	9,132	7,164	7,518
Black, non-Hispanic	6,170	7,201	5,290	5,375
Hispanic	6,142	7,456	5,769	5,941
White, non-Hispanic	6,489	8,845	5,861	6,179

Table 6.4—Average amount of support for aided undergraduates, by dependency status, source of support and student and institutional characteristics: AY 1989-90—Continued

	Dependent students		Independent students	
	No family support	Family support	No family support	Family support
Residence				
On campus	7,678	10,995	8,839	9,849
Off campus	6,347	8,178	5,750	5,939
With parents	4,614	5,417	5,017	5,447
Age as of 12/31/89				
16-23 years	6,448	8,608	6,360	6,745
24-29 years	(*)	(*)	6,117	6,373
30-39 years	(*)	(*)	5,182	5,325
40 years or older	(*)	(*)	5,271	5,487

*Not applicable. In the case of age, students over the age of 24 are independent by definition.

NOTE: Average amounts based on all respondents with nonmissing amounts. "No family support" includes students who relied on their own resources and financial aid and reported not receiving financial support from their families. "Family support" includes students who received aid and family support; they may or may not have contributed to their own support. Not shown in this table are students who relied on aid only and did not contribute to their own support.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1990.

The average amount of financial resources of aided students varied by family and student income. For example, the average amount of financial resources for dependent students who did not receive parental support did not vary between the lowest and highest family income categories, but did vary for those dependent students receiving parental support ($7,249 compared with $12,842). For aided independent students who did not receive parental financial support, the average amount of financial resources decreased between the lowest and highest student income categories. The average amount for those students with an income of less than $5,000 was $6,563, compared with $4,577 for those with an income of $50,000 or more.

Since the average amounts of financial support reported received by students should represent the amount students actually spent to attend a postsecondary institution, these amounts should reflect the costs of attendance at each type of institution. Students who attended public institutions received lower average amounts of total financial support than either private not-for-profit or proprietary institutions for both dependent and independent students. For example, dependent students at private not-for-profit institutions who received parental support received an average of $13,322 in financial resources, compared with $7,131 for students at proprietary institutions, and $6,145 for those students at public institutions.

Summary

The amount of financial resources available to a student can come from three main sources: the student, the parents, and the institution in the form of financial aid. It is assumed that dependent students receive financial support from their parents while independent students do not. This has implications for receiving financial aid from the institution. The calculation for financial need takes into account the parental financial status for dependent students, but does not take parental financial status into account for independent students. The result is that the financing of postsecondary education is a complex relationship between students, parents, and institutions.

Appendix A

Glossary

This glossary describes the variables used in this report. Most variables were derived by NCES and are directly from the NPSAS:90 Undergraduate Table Generation System (UTGS). In a few instances variables were not available in the table generator and were derived by MPR Associates either using information from several variables or aggregating categories based on the original data. These variables are labeled "MPR-derived." An updated version of the NPSAS:90 UTGS that contains all of the variables contained in this report will be available soon. A brief description of how they were derived is included in the description of the variable.

Postsecondary education	For the purposes of NPSAS, postsecondary education is any program of study that is designed for individuals who have completed their secondary education, is academically, occupationally, or vocationally oriented, has a duration of at least three months, and is more that correspondence courses. In addition, students are included in NPSAS if they are either enrolled for credit or are in a program of study of at least three months duration that results in a formal award or degree.
Undergraduate	Students who are enrolled in a degree credit program that results in either an associates' degree or a bachelor's degree, or are enrolled in a program that results in a certificate or license or other formal award below the baccalaureate level.
Undergraduate level	The year the student is enrolled in school, for undergraduates, years first through fifth.

Income and dependency status

Dependent student	A student dependent on his or her parents or guardians for financial support. For financial aid purposes, a student is classified as dependent unless the definition of independent student is met.
Less than $10,000	Family adjusted gross income of less than $10,000 in 1989.
$100,000 or more	Family adjusted gross income of $100,000 or more in 1989.
Independent student	A student independent of financial support from his or her parents or guardians. A student is considered financially independent if at least one of the following conditions is met: 1) the student is 24 years old by December 31 of the academic year; 2) the student is a veteran; 3) the student is a ward of the court or both parents are dead; 4) the student has legal dependents other than a spouse; or 5) the student is married or not claimed as a tax exemption for the calendar year.

Less than $5,000	Student and spouse adjusted gross income of less than $5,000 in 1989.
$50,000 or more	Student and spouse income of $50,000 or more in 1989.
Institution control	
Public	A postsecondary educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials in which the program and activities are under the control of these officials and which is supported primarily by public funds.
Private not-for-profit	A postsecondary education institution that is controlled by an independent governing board and incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Private, for-profit	A postsecondary educational institution that is privately owned and operated as a profit-making enterprise. Includes career colleges and proprietary institutions.
Institution level	
Less-than-2-year	An institution whose program of study results in a license or certificate and has a duration of less than 2 years.
2- to 3-year	An institution whose program of study results in an award, license, or degree below the baccalaureate level and is at least 2 years but less than 4 years in duration. These would include many community and junior colleges.
4-year non-doctoral	An institution or subsidiary element that confers at least a baccalaureate or master's degree in one or more programs. (This type of institution cannot award a degree that is higher than a master's degree.)
4-year doctoral	An institution that confers at least a doctoral or first-professional degree in one or more programs.
Race–ethnicity	Categories used to describe groups to which individuals belong or identify with. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins.
American Indian or Alaskan Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian American or Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the Pacific Islander original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa, India, and Vietnam.
Hispanic	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
Black, Non-Hispanic	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those also of Hispanic origin).
White, Non-Hispanic	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those also of Hispanic origin).
Age	
23 years or younger	Student was 23 years or younger as of 12/31/89.
24–29 years	Student was between 24 and 29 years old as of 12/31/89.
30–39 years	Student was between 30 and 39 years old as of 12/31/89.
40 years or older	Student was 40 years or older as of 12/31/89.
Marital status	
Not married	Student was single, widowed, or divorced.
Married	Student was married.
Attendance status	
Full time	Student was enrolled full time according to the institution's definition.
Full year	Student was enrolled for the entire academic year according to the institution's definition.
Part time	Student was enrolled part time according to the institution's definition.
Part year	Student was enrolled for only a portion of an academic year according to the institution's definition.
At least half time	Student was enrolled at least half time but less than full time according to the institution's definition.

Less than half time	Student was enrolled less than half time according to the institution's definition.

Housing status

On-campus housing	Institution-owned living quarters for students. These are typically on-campus or off-campus dormitories, residence halls, or other facilities.
Off campus	Students living in their own or a shared off-campus residence, not with their parents, guardians, or other relatives.
With parents	Students living off campus with their parents, guardians, or other relatives.

Citizenship

U.S. citizen	Student was a U.S. citizen.
Eligible noncitizen	Student was not a citizen of the United States but satisfied the requirements to be eligible for federal financial aid. An example of an eligible noncitizen would be a person with permanent residence status.
Other	Student was not a citizen of the United States and was not eligible for federal financial aid.

Costs

Total cost of attendance	Sum of expenses for tuition and fees, food and housing, books and supplies, and other expenses. Food and housing and other expenses are included in the cost of attendance by may also include costs not associated with the costs of attendance, but with the costs of living. However, all of these costs are included in the CM and Pell budgets, so for comparability purposes, all of these costs are included in the total cost of attendance.
Tuition and fees	Amount of money charged to students for instructional services (tuition) and additional services that the tuition charge does not cover (fees). (TUITCOST)
Food and housing	Student-reported expenses for rent or mortgage, utilities, and food. (ROOMCOST + OTHRMCOST)
Books and supplies	Student-reported expenses for books, supplies, computers, and microscopes. (BOOKCOST)

Other expenses	Student-reported expenses for commuting to class (e.g. bus fare, gas, parking); other educational expenses such as transportation to permanent home, babysitting while attending classes; personal expenses, such as clothing, recreation, vacation, trips, cleaning; dependent care, day care, babysitting; repaying education loans; and other expenses such as phone, child support, insurance, medical, or loans other than education. (OTHRCOST + OFFCOST)
Student-reported costs	Those expenses that were collected from the student interview information. These include food and housing, books and supplies, and other expenses.

Budgets

Institutional budget	The sum of tuition and fee costs, food and housing, books and supplies, and other expenses the institution constructs for use in the calculation of financial need for financial aid purposes.
Congressional Methodology	Budgets of tuition and fees, room and board, and other expenses as determined under the rules of the Congressional Methodology.
Pell budget	Budget of tuition and fees and room and board as determined under the rules of the Pell Grant program.
Eligible	Part of the eligibility requirements for receiving federal financial aid is that a student must be either a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen, and attend at least on-half time. For the purposes of this report, these criteria are used to determine eligibility for financial aid.

Financial aid

Financial need	Financial need for financial aid purposes is the difference between the total costs of attendance and the amount of resources available to the student. If the student is a dependent student, the financial resources of the parents are included, but if the student is independent, the resources of the parents are not included.
Need-based aid	Financial aid awarded to students based on the financial need of the student. Federal financial aid is need-based aid.
Merit-based aid	Financial aid awarded to students based on the academic merit of the student rather that on financial need. Some financial aid has both merit and need requirements.

Any aid	Student received financial assistance—grants, loans, or work—from sources other than family or self to help finance his or her education.
Federal financial aid	Student financial aid for which the source of origin is the Federal government. Most federal aid programs are administered by the Department of Education.
State financial aid	Student financial aid for which the source of origin is a State agency. This aid can either be provided by, funded by, or administered by a State agency.
Institutional financial aid	Student financial aid whose source of origin is the postsecondary institution. This aid is provided/funded by the institution.
Other financial aid	Non-Federal, non-State, and noninstitutional sources of student financial aid. This includes aid provided by corporations, employers, unions, foundations, fraternal organizations, community organizations, and other sources.

Type of Aid

Grant	A type of student financial aid that does not require repayment or employment. It is usually (but not always) awarded on the basis of need, possibly combined with some skills or characteristics the student possesses.
Loan	A type of student financial aid that advances funds and that is evidenced by a promissory note requiring the recipient to repay the specified amount(s) under prescribed conditions.
Stafford Loan	Long-term, low-interest loans administered by the federal government. Students borrow money for education expenses directly from banks and other lending institutions. The loans are guaranteed by the federal government. The loan program is authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, Title IV-B; 20 U.S.C. 1071 *et seq.*, and was formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program.
Work study	A program that provides partial reimbursement of wages paid to students. It may be sponsored by the federal or state government or the institution. These programs are used infrequently for graduate students.

Family support	Financial support from one or more of the following sources: the student's own savings or earnings; a spouse's savings or earnings; or monetary gifts from parents or other relatives. (EARNSCHL, SAVESCHL, SPERNSCH, SPSAVSCH, PARCONTR, or FCONREL)
Spouse support	Spouse's earnings or savings that were used to pay for student's education expenses. (SPERNSCH, SPSAVSCH)
Self support	Students earnings or savings that were used to pay for education expenses. (EARNSCHL, SAVESCHL)

Appendix B

Technical Notes and Methodology

The 1989-90 NPSAS Survey

The need for a nationally representative database on postsecondary student financial aid prompted the U.S. Department of Education to conduct the 1986-87 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:87). To meet these data needs the NPSAS sample was designed to include students enrolled in all types of postsecondary education. Thus, it included students enrolled in public institutions; private, not-for-profit institutions; and private-for-profit institutions. The sample included students at 4-year and 2-year institutions, as well as students enrolled in occupationally specific programs that lasted for less than two years.

The sample for the NPSAS:87 data collection consisted of students enrolled in the fall of 1986. The sample for the 1989-90 NPSAS (NPSAS:90), on the other hand, consisted of students enrolled in postsecondary education throughout the 1989-90 academic year, a more accurate representation of postsecondary students.

NPSAS:90 included a stratified sample of approximately 69,000 eligible students (about 23,000 of whom were graduates and first professionals) from about 1,100 institutions. For each student in the sample, efforts were made to collect registration and financial aid records from the institution. The overall response rate for the institutional data collection was 91 percent and 77 percent for the student interview.

For more information on the NPSAS survey, consult *Methodology Report for the 1990 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study* (Longitudinal Studies Branch, Postsecondary Education Statistics Division, Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, NCES 92-080, June 1992). More information on the estimates presented from other data sets (e.g., IPEDS) can be obtained by consulting the reference cited on the table.

Accuracy of Estimates

The statistics in this report are estimates derived from a sample. Two broad categories of error occur in such estimates: sampling and nonsampling errors. Sampling errors happen because observations are made only on samples of students, not on entire populations. Nonsampling errors happen not only in sample surveys but also in complete censuses of entire populations.

Nonsampling errors can be attributed to a number of sources: inability to obtain complete information about all students in all institutions in the sample (some students or institutions refused to participate, or students participated but answered only certain items); ambiguous definitions; differences in interpreting questions; inability or unwillingness to give correct information; mistakes in recording or coding data; and other errors of collecting, processing, sampling, and estimating missing data.

The accuracy of a survey result is determined by the effect of sampling and nonsampling errors. In surveys with sample sizes as large as those in the NPSAS:90 study, sampling errors generally are not the primary concern, except where separate estimates are made for relatively small subpopulations such as Asian-Americans or Native Americans. In this report, small sample sizes were not usually a problem.

Table B.1 shows the weighted totals for each of the row variables.

Table B.1—Weighted Ns for row variables

Row variable	Weighted N (1000s)
Total 16,271	
Gender	
Male	6,997
Female	8,690
Race-ethnicity	
Native American	127
Asian	763
Black, non-Hispanic	1,661
Hispanic	1,371
White, non-Hispanic	12,349
Age	
16-23 years	9,133
24-29 years	2,645
30-39 years	2,462
40 years and older	1,589
Citizenship	
U.S. citizen	15,160
Eligible noncitizen	579
Other	223
Attendance status	
Full-time	8,637
At least half-time	3,235
Less than half-time	3,512
Dependency status	
Dependent	7,758
Independent	8,448
Housing status	
On campus	2,445
Off campus	9,220
With parents	4,607

Table B.1—Weighted Ns for row variables —continued

Dependent student income	
Less than $10,000	970
$10,000–$19,999	887
$20,000–$29,999	1,042
$30,000–$39,999	1,240
$40,000–$49,999	1,017
$50,000–$59,999	758
$60,000–$69,999	657
$70,000–$79,999	328
$80,000–$99,999	394
$100,000 and over	464
Independent student income	
Less than $5,000	1,514
$5,000–$9,999	1,361
$10,000–$19,999	2,133
$20,000–$29,999	1,411
$30,000–$39,999	914
$40,000–$49,999	584
$50,000 and over	530
Institution control	
Public	12,313
Private, not-for-profit	2,567
Private for-profit	1,391
Level of institution	
Less than 2-year	1,223
2- to 3-year	7,412
4-year, non-doctoral	3,831
4-year, doctoral	3,805
Undergraduate level	
First year	8,194
Second year	3,906
Third year	1,877
Fourth year	2,055
Fifth year/not graduate	239

Most of the estimates presented in this report were produced using the NPSAS:90 Undergraduate Table Generation System (UTGS) for undergraduates. The UTGS software offers users the capability to specify and generate their own tables from the NPSAS data. The data within the UTGS are encrypted to protect the confidentiality of the more than 45,000 undergraduates. The UTGS not only allows the expansion of tables in this report, it calculates proper standard errors[26] and weighted sample sizes for estimates. If the number of valid cases is too small to produce an estimate, the UTGS prints the message "low-N" instead of the estimate.

For more information about the 1990 NPSAS Undergraduate Table Generation System, contact:

Arlie Gordon
NCES Longitudinal Studies Branch
555 New Jersey Ave NW
Washington D.C., 20208-5652
(202) 219-1367

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[26] The NPSAS sample is not a simple random sample and, therefore, simple random sample techniques for estimating sampling error cannot be applied to these data. The UTGS takes into account the complexity of the sampling procedures and calculates standard errors appropriate for such samples. The method for computing sampling errors used by the UTGS involves approximating the estimator by linear terms of a Taylor series expansion. The procedure is typically referred to as the Taylor series method. Table B.2 presents illustrative standard errors for a table of estimates produced by the NPSAS:90 undergraduate UTGS.

Table B.2—Selected standard errors for selected undergraduate characteristics from table 2.1

Attendance status	
Full-time	1.16
At least half-time	0.54
Less than half-time	0.91
Citizenship	
U.S. citizen	0.34
Eligible noncitizen	0.29
Other	0.10
Control of institution	
Public	1.02
Private not-for-profit	0.72
Private for-profit	0.66
Dependency status	
Dependent	0.88
Independent	0.88
Gender	
Male	0.52
Female	0.52
Dependent student income	
Less than $10,000	0.38
$10,000-19,999	0.38
$20,000-29,999	0.37
$30,000-39,999	0.39
$40,000-49,999	0.37
$50,000-59,999	0.32
$60,000-69,999	0.29
$70,000-79,999	0.21
$80,000-99,999	0.24
$100,000 or more	0.32
Independent student income	
Less than $5,000	0.47
$5,000-9,999	0.53
$10,000-19,999	0.60
$20,000-29,999	0.50
$30,000-49,999	0.57
$50,000 or more	0.38
Level of institution	
Less-than-2-year	0.64
2- to 3-year	1.61
4 year non-doctoral	1.17
4 year doctoral	1.51
Level/degree program	
First year	0.83
Second year	0.46
Third year	0.36
Fourth year	0.47
Fifth year/not graduate	0.22
Race-ethnicity	
Native American	0.08
Asian	0.32

Table B.2—Selected standard errors for selected undergraduate characteristics from table 2.1—Continued

Black, non-Hispanic	0.68
Hispanic	0.56
White, non-Hispanic	0.99
Residence	
On campus	0.68
Off campus	0.73
With parents	0.70
Age as of 12/31/89	
16-24	0.86
25-29	0.35
30-39	0.42
40 or more	0.43

Statistical Procedures

Other descriptive comparisons in this report were based on **Student's t** statistics. Comparisons based on the estimates of the proportions include the estimates of the probability of a Type I error, or significance level. The significance levels were determined by calculating the **Student's t** values for the differences between each pair of means or proportions and comparing these to published tables of significance levels for two-tailed hypothesis testing.

The 1989-90 NPSAS survey, while representative and statistically accurate, was not a simple random sample. Instead, the survey sample was selected using a more complex three step procedure with stratified samples and differential probabilities of selection at each level. First, postsecondary institutions were initially selected within geographical strata. Once institutions were organized by zip code and state, they were further stratified by control (i.e., public, private not-for-profit, or private-for-profit) and offering (less-than-2-year, 2- to 3-year, 4-year non-doctoral-granting, and 4-year doctoral-granting). Sampling rates for students enrolled at different institutions and levels (undergraduate or other) varied, resulting in better data for policy purposes, but at a cost to statistical efficiency.

Simple random sample techniques for the estimation of standard errors frequently underestimate the true standard errors for some estimates. To overcome this problem, standard errors for all estimates in this tabulation were calculated using Taylor residual techniques.[27]

Student's t values may be computed for comparisons using these tables' estimates with the following formula:

$$t = P_1 - P_2 \ / \ \mathrm{SQRT}\ (se_1^2 + se_2^2)$$

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[27] For information on the Taylor Series method, see, for example, Eun Sul Lee, Ronald N. Forthofer, and Ronald J. Lorimor, *Analyzing Complex Survey Data,* (Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1989).

where P_1 and P_2 are independent estimates to be compared and se_1 and se_2 are their corresponding standard errors. Note that this formula is valid only for independent estimates. When the estimates were not independent (for example, when comparing the percentage of students across age groups), a covariance term was added to the denominator of the t-test formula. Because the actual covariance terms were not known, it was assumed that the estimates were perfectly negatively correlated. Consequently, $2(se_1 * se_2)$ was added to the denominator of the t-test formula.

There are hazards in reporting statistical tests for each comparison. First, the test may make comparisons based on large **t** statistics appear to merit special attention. This can be misleading, since the magnitude of the **t** statistic is related not only to the observed differences in means or percentages but also to the number of students in the specific categories used for comparison. Hence, a small difference compared across a large number of students would produce a large **t** statistic.

A second hazard in reporting statistical tests for each comparison is that, when making multiple comparisons among categories of an independent variable, for example, different levels of income, the probability of a Type I error for these comparisons taken as a group is larger than the probability for a single comparison. When more than one difference between groups of related characteristics or "families" are tested for statistical significance, we must apply a standard that assures a level of significance for all of those comparisons taken together.

Comparisons were made in this report only when $p \leq .05 / k$ for a particular pairwise comparison, where that comparison was one of k tests within a family. This guarantees both that the individual comparison would have $p \leq .05$ and that when k comparisons were made within a family of possible tests, the significance level of the comparisons would sum to $p \leq .05$.[28]

For example, in a comparison of enrollment for males and females, only one comparison is possible (males v. females). In this family, $k = 1$, and the comparison can be evaluated with a **Student's t** test. When students are divided into three racial-ethnic groups and all possible comparisons are made, then $k = 3$ and the significance level of each test must be $p \leq .05/3$, or .0167. In this report, when comparisons are made between three different classifications, then $k = 3$ and the significance level of each test must be $p \leq .05/3$, or .0167, in order to be considered statistically significant.

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[28] The standard that $p \leq .05/k$ for each comparison is more stringent than the criterion that the significance level of the comparisons should sum to $p \leq .05$. For tables showing the **t** statistic required to ensure that $p \leq .05/k$ for a particular family size and degrees of freedom, see Oliver Jean Dunn, "Multiple Comparisons Among Means," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 56: 52–64.

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